

Unionists ask for talks on devolution

Unionist leaders yesterday attempted to reopen dialogue with the Prime Minister over the Anglo-Irish agreement...

A letter from Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party, and the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists...

Resolutions passed by the executive of both parties want all-party talks on devolution to begin on the basis of the agreement being suspended...

The letter was sent to the Prime Minister at the end of last week when the two leaders, in particular Mr Molyneux, were alarmed by the violence and intimidation of the Unionist 24-hour day of action...

From Richard Ford, Belfast

"loyalist" opposition on a constitutional path.

In private, some Unionists admit that it is impossible to expect the Prime Minister, particularly after the violence, to suspend the Anglo-Irish agreement...

However, the Government has to decide whether it believes Mr Paisley and Mr Molyneux can bring the bulk of their parties to support their decisions.

The clear divisions between the two parties were shown in their response to a rebuke from the Northern Ireland police authority yesterday.

It paid for three half-page newspaper advertisements accusing the Unionist leaders of attempting to exert political pressure on the police.

The advertisement was a response to a Unionist message claiming that the Anglo-Irish agreement had radically altered the role of Ulster officers and that in these "trying times" no-one could run away from making a choice.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, denounced the Unionist message as misleading and irresponsible. The police authority said the Unionists had not quoted fully the article of the Anglo-Irish agreement concerning the work of the RUC, and insisted that the police were not "tasked" to police the agreement.

Kinnock rejects rebels' rescue

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

Labour Party leaders last night denied the claims of left-wing councillors that Mr Neil Kinnock had agreed to indemnify them against surcharges and disqualifications.

The counter claims came after a meeting of Labour's local government committee had decided that a hardship fund should be set up to relieve the financial difficulties suffered by councillors in Liverpool and Lambeth, south London, who last week lost their appeal against surcharges and disqualification from local office for five years.

The differing interpretations of the committee's move threatens the reopening of the damaging divisions in the party about retrospective indemnities which dominated last year's Labour conference.

It came on the day that Labour's national executive committee agreed on the procedure which could lead to 12 Militant Tendency sympathizers from Liverpool being expelled from the party on March 26.

It was confirmed last night that charges against four of the original alleged offenders had been dropped. Details of the charges drawn up by Mr Larry Whitty, the general secretary, against the 12 were disclosed last night.

Mr Derek Hutton, deputy leader of Liverpool Council, has been charged with abuse of the rules, constitution and standing orders of the party, involvement in the Militant Tendency and activities which could bring the party into disrepute.

Mr Tony Mulhearn, president of the district party, has been charged with abuse of the rules and involvement in the Militant Tendency.

Others have been charged with abuse, involvement and activities that could bring the party into disrepute.

On March 26, the NEC decided yesterday, Mr Whitty will present the charges and the 12 will give an opportunity of responding in writing or orally.

Mr Whitty told the executive committee that if membership of Militant was proved to his satisfaction there was only one penalty and that was expulsion.

In the local government committee Mr Kinnock and other Shadow Cabinet members had emphasized the limited nature of the compensation arrangements proposed.

Mr Kinnock said: "We owe it to the people concerned not to entertain fantasies or kid people, but to help those in the greatest hardship."

But immediately after the meeting Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth and one of the 81 surcharged councillors, claimed that the committee had been categorical over compensation, the lifting of disqualification and over raising funds for an appeal.

He claimed that Mr Kinnock had agreed that a Labour government could move to lift the ban and pay out compensation.



The Princess of Wales arriving at Westminster Abbey yesterday for an Observance for Commonwealth.

French hostage shown 'dead'

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

In a macabre confirmation of earlier threats, the mysterious Islamic Jihad organization yesterday produced pictures of what it claimed was the body of the French hostage Michel Seurat, and said he was killed last Wednesday.

The claim and pictures came as France launched a diplomatic drive to secure the release of eight French hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian Muslim extremists.

One of the three black and white photographs showed the man lying bare-chested with his eyes half-closed, while another showed a body wrapped in a blanket inside a coffin. The third showed the closed coffin, a crucifix on the lid.

A statement left with the said they were intended to leave no doubts "about the seriousness of our earlier claim". There was no indication of when or where the photos were taken, but the pictures were the first evidence produced by the kidnappers to support their claim that they had killed Mr Seurat.

The statement denied an earlier claim by an anonymous telephone caller that Islamic Jihad had kidnapped the four French television newsmen seized in west Beirut on Saturday.

Photograph, page 7

Islamic Jihad's latest claim was made amid efforts by Paris to secure the release of the eight Frenchmen. Emissaries to Lebanon and Syria began yesterday a series of contacts in Beirut and Damascus.

The effort appeared to have suffered a setback, however, as Iran, considered the key to establishing contacts with Shia Muslim fundamentalists in Lebanon, refused to issue a visa to a third envoy.

The Islamic Jihad statement said: "We insist that the lives of the three remaining hostages depends on how quickly the French Government meets our demands which are very clear and detailed. Therefore it should spare itself despatching envoys whose missions have no justification other than fooling the French public and betraying its interests."

Mr Seurat was kidnapped in west Beirut last May. Islamic Jihad held him and three other Frenchmen hostage, demanding France stop supplying arms to Iraq.

The demands have broadened, however, to include the return of two pro-Iranian Iraqis deported to Baghdad after they were captured in an anti-terrorist dragnet in Paris last month.

Photograph, page 7

Industry costs fall

Industry's raw material and fuel costs have fallen by 9.5 per cent over the past year - the biggest annual decline since the 1930s - according to Government figures.

The fall is because of lower oil, commodity and domestic energy prices, and the pound's relatively strong performance against the dollar.

The prices charged by industry rose by 5 per cent in the 12 months to February, the smallest rise for more than ten years.

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Carrington plea to Spain

From Richard Owen Brussels

Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, yesterday made a last-minute appeal to Spanish voters to back Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, and vote "yes" in tomorrow's referendum on Nato membership.

Lord Carrington said a "no" vote would be a big political setback for the West and would run counter to Spain's efforts to "come out of its shell" and end its isolation from Western Europe.

Withdrawal from Nato so soon after joining the EEC would be "an illogical thing to do" and would hurt Spain more than the alliance. "I hope even at this late stage they won't do it," he told

The Times in an interview at Nato headquarters. "I hope very much the Spanish people realize that the Western Alliance is as much European as American and that it is an essential part of the European Community and political co-operation."

Lord Carrington emphasized that Spain's withdrawal would not necessarily spell the end of its association with Nato in the long term. He also underlined Nato's continuing strength and cohesion, pointing out that it has existed for 36 years, whereas Spain has been a member for only four years.

A "no" vote in the referendum would not necessarily reflect what the people of Spain really wanted, he said,

since the right-wing parties were urging voters to abstain, even though they were pro-Nato. "You may get an answer which is not wholly representative."

On arms control, Lord Carrington said there had been movement forward in talks on medium-range missiles in Europe, with the Russians prepared to balance SS20s against cruise and Pershing 2 missiles, provided British and French nuclear forces were frozen.

The drawback, however, was that Britain and France could not be expected to accept "perpetual nuclear obsolescence".

Frage defiant, page 7 Interview, page 12

Families 'not told' by Nasa

Shuttle recovery may take days

Cape Canaveral (UPI) - Wreckage of the shuttle Challenger's crew cabin has been found and the remains of some of the ship's seven crew members were brought ashore at the weekend, it was reported yesterday.

Nasa officials announced on Sunday that the wreckage of the cabin had been found on Friday in 100ft of water and that it had been identified by Navy divers from the USS Preserver on Saturday morning.

The Preserver returned to port on Saturday night under cover of darkness and with no running lights. The ship was met at a Navy dock by the astronomer Robert Overmyer, Nasa photographers and others wearing white smocks.

It was reported that the remains of an unknown number of Challenger's crew were taken off the ship, but Nasa officials would not confirm the reports or provide any details of the salvage operation, which is expected to take several days.

Mr Hugh Harris, the Nasa spokesman, said: "I don't think anybody's going to say anything until it's recovered and identification is made."

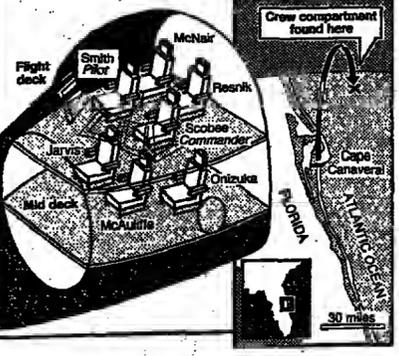
Pathologists assigned to a hospital at Patrick Air Force Base, near the Kennedy Space Centre, are in charge of identifying crew remains.

On board Challenger at the launch on January 28 were Christa McAuliffe, a New Hampshire schoolteacher, the mission commander Francis "Dick" Scobee, his co-pilot Michael Smith, Judith A. Resnik, Ellison S. Onizuka, Ronald McNair and Gregory Jarvis, a commercial engineer with the Hughes Aircraft Corporation.

Nasa officials said on Sunday that divers from the Preserver were able to provide positive identification of debris from Challenger's crew compartment and the existence of crew remains.

Mr Harris emphasized, however, that he did not know the condition of the two-level reinforced cabin or how many of the seven astronauts' remains might still be in or around the wreckage.

A Nasa statement said a "possible" identification of the cabin was made by salvage crews using sonar on Friday and that members of the crew's families had been informed.



Testing Sir and Miss on the three Rs in Texas

By Michael Binyon Washington

School tables have been turned on the teachers in Texas. After months of nervous sweating, protests, and attempts to play truant, over 200,000 teachers were yesterday sweating it out in classrooms across the state taking their exams, while their gleeful pupils were given the day off.

The teachers were being tested to see if they really knew how to teach. Some 95 per cent are expected to reach the passmark, set at a minimum of 75 per cent. But the 10,000 likely to flunk their exams and the

make-up test on June 28 will have to drop out of school rather late in life.

The failures will be dismissed next year, and barred from teaching unless their schools can make out a special case to keep them on. And even then, they will have to hone up on their three Rs and take the exam again.

The compulsory competency test is part of a wide-ranging effort by Governor Mark White to raise academic standards in the Lone Star state, and predictably has drawn howls of anguish from the teachers. The reform bill was passed in 1984, and ever since then

teachers have been lobbying against this day of reckoning.

Two weeks ago, some 2,500 marched on the state Education Office in Austin. Last week, lawyers for the Texas State Teachers' Association tried in vain to block the exam in court.

The exam consisted of 85 multiple-choice questions and a short essay - 150 words long. The teachers' examiners will hand out the marks at the beginning of May. Teachers have been going to crammers to help them mug up basic reading and writing skills. Some of the practice questions include the following: "Where could an educator find a set of synonyms and antonyms for a particular word? A. an encyclopaedia, B. an index, C. a thesaurus, D. a bibliography." (Answer: C.)

Another question runs: "Read the following, adapted from an education textbook: Grades should be based on the summative evaluation, not the formative one. Which of the following is the best definition of summative as used above? A. The initial diagnosis prior to instruction; B. The final assessment after instruction; C. The intermediate assessment midway into instruction; D. The annual

standardized test's results" (Answer: B.)

Governor White argues that teachers should be willing to accept the test as a fair exchange for what they gained from the 1984 Bill, including upgraded pay-scales, smaller classes, and guaranteed preparation times in school hours. Arkansas and Georgia have attempted to test teachers. But as the controversial movement to pay teachers merit money according to their abilities to teach gathers momentum across the country, other states are watching Texas to see whether yesterday's big exam leads to real improvement in the classroom.

Doctors attack increase for prescriptions

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Prescription charges are to rise by 20p, at close to double the rate of inflation, to £2.20p, but there is to be no increase in dental charges or charges for spectacles. Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, said yesterday.

This means prescription charges have risen eleven-fold from 20p in 1979 when the Conservatives came to power.

The increase was criticized yesterday by opposition MPs and by the British Medical Association which warned it would deter still more patients from seeking treatment.

But the British Dental Association welcomed the decision not to increase dental charges following last year's 25 per cent rise.

It said: "We have been warning ministers that the increases would put people off visiting the dentist and perhaps the message has finally got through."

The BMA earlier this month called for an urgent review of prescription charges. It gave a warning that doctors up and down the country were aware that some people were not seeking treatment because their income was just too high to qualify for free prescriptions and they could not afford the charge of £2 an item.

"This further increase at above the rate of inflation will simply make the situation

worse," a BMA spokesman said.

Mr Hayhoe said the 10 per cent increase was in line with the rising costs of medicines, the increase in which was running above general inflation.

Seventy-five per cent of prescriptions were issued without charge, he said, with pensioners, expectant and nursing mothers, those on supplementary benefit and others on low income all exempt.

The rise would mean that the proportion of NHS spending met through charges would fall slightly this year.

Parliament 4

He said that a review of the exemptions, including exemptions for specified conditions such as epilepsy, had been completed and that the existing range of exemptions would continue.

Charges for prescription season tickets are to rise in line with the 10 per cent increase to £12 for the four-monthly ticket and £33.50 for the annual season ticket.

Mr Hayhoe told the House that savings from the limited list of drugs introduced last April were still expected to be £75 million in a full year - the original figure the Government anticipated.

Child wins £600,000 damages

A girl, aged six, who was born with irreversible handicaps and can neither talk nor walk, was awarded £600,000 damages in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Turner was told that Caroline Turville had to be held every waking hour and could not sleep each night by her parents since she was born prematurely at the South London Hospital for Women and Children in October 1979.

Mr Peter Turville, aged 40, and Mrs Jane Turville, aged 39, of Clarence Avenue, Clapham Park, south west London, sought damages for negligence against Miss Elsie Sibthorpe, a consultant obstetrician, and Wandsworth Health Authority, which they denied.

Mr George Carman, QC, counsel for the Turvilles, said the family had "discounted" 20 per cent of what they believed was a conservative valuation of the claim.

Mr Turville said after the hearing: "The settlement is to care for Caroline. She will need constant therapy in order to develop to her greatest potential." Page 3

Acquittal in second death trial

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter

A Londoner aged 22 was acquitted yesterday of the murder of Leonie Darnley, aged 7, after facing his second trial at the Central Criminal Court for her murder in July 1984.

At the end of the first trial last December the jury failed to agree over the guilt of Patrick Reilly, aged 24, and a retrial was ordered.

Yesterday at the end of deliberations lasting more than six hours the jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and were then told that Reilly had pleaded guilty to six other sex assault charges.

Members of the jury were shocked at the news and two women jurors wept as they left court. The judge said that he had not wanted to burden the jury immediately with the knowledge that Reilly, who did not give evidence, had admitted other offences.

The prosecution alleged that Mr Reilly, a labourer living in a north London house, was linked to the killing by four human hairs and three cloth fibres.

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Portfolio

The Times Portfolio daily competition prize of £2,000 was not won yesterday as today's total is £4,000. Portfolio list, page 28; how to play, information service, page 32.

Thatcher 'talks too much'

Mrs Thatcher talks too much, takes on too much, and her party will drop her as fast as it can if things go wrong, according to Lord Wilson of Riveaux, the former Labour Prime Minister. Lord Wilson, who is 70 today, thinks Mrs Thatcher is thoughtful and caring "but doesn't apply those qualities to government" Page 2

Willis move

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, is trying to arrange a meeting between Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, and Miss Brenda Dean, the leader of the print union Sogat '82 Page 2

School fear

Many children from ethnic minorities go through a nightmare when they first go to school in Britain because they cannot cope with English Page 5

Food danger

EEC and government policies are artificially promoting an unhealthy diet by subsidizing potentially harmful foods such as sugar, fat milk, butter and low fibre white bread, the BMA says Page 3

Tamil attacks

Attacks on Sinhalese civilians by Tamil militants in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province are on the increase, despite government confidence that the situation there is much improved Page 8

Hurdle hope

The Cheltenham National Hunt Festival begins today with See You Then the odds-on favourite to win the Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle for the second year running Page 27

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Bridge, Business, Court, Crosswords, Events, Law Report, Leaders. Includes sub-sections like Letters, Parliament, Sale Shows, Science, Sport Reports, Theatres, TV & Radio, Weather.

# Fall in oil prices forces change in Alliance plan to reduce jobless

By Richard Evans

The crash in North Sea oil prices has forced SDP-Liberal leaders to trim their hopes for cutting Britain's record jobless figures, it was disclosed yesterday.

Instead of reducing unemployment by one million within three years as forecast 12 months ago, an Alliance "budget" unveiled by Dr David Owen and Mr David Steel now talks of cutting the dole queues by 750,000 during the same period.

Mr Ian Wigglesworth, the SDP's economic spokesman, said: "The circumstances are getting more and more difficult for creating jobs. One of the major problems is the horrendous balance of payments problems which are stacking up for the country."

## Tory call for jobs aid before tax reductions

By George Hill

A Conservative call for next week's Budget to give priority to unemployment relief rather than tax cuts was submitted to Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday.

The moderate Tory Reform Group rejects the "prevailing orthodoxy" in the party that preference should be given, if resources allow, to cutting the basic income tax rate or raising personal tax allowances faster than necessary to match inflation, an object they accept.

"We believe that any extra resources should be used to cut unemployment by spending on direct job creation through essential public investment," Anne Balloch, Christopher Mockler and Charles Williams, three former officials of the Conservative Research Department, say in their sub-

mission, *Giving Most Help Where The Need Is Greatest*. "We are convinced that our society will benefit more in terms of both jobs and welfare from increased spending on housing, on education, on health and on the needs of both inner cities and shire counties," the authors add.

They call for action to bring down interest rates into closer line with those prevailing in comparable countries, as this would help businesses and increase employment without endangering the Government's counter-inflation strategy.

"VAT should be removed from home improvement costs. It is sheer false economy not to do everything we can to improve our housing stock," the authors say.

*Giving Most Help Where The Need Is Greatest* (Tory Reform Group, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG; £1).

Dr Owen, told the Industrial Society in London yesterday: "A Budget should buttress an industrial strategy and lay the foundations for a lasting economic recovery, based on industrial regeneration, an incomes strategy and industrial partnership."

"That requires a well-judged blend of innovation and stability; we have few of these factors boosting Britain today. An irresponsible buying of votes rather than an industrial strategy is likely to form the basis for the run-up to the next election."

He said that if extra cash was to be found for industrial recovery and higher employment high spending programmes such as health, social services and local authority services could not have increases to their rate of growth. Aid for arts, page 5

employers' National Insurance contributions;

• Three per cent increase in unemployment and child benefits, and pensions;

• Expansion of education and training for skills programmes.

Those measures would cost £3.5 billion in a full year. In addition there would be £2 billion extra capital spending on house construction, renewing outdated hospitals, rebuilding crumbling sewers and essential road construction.

"The increased borrowing resulting from this expansion would be modest: £3.5 billion in the first full year," the budget document states.

In the battle against inflation, the Alliance has come up with a new payroll incentive—through reduced employers' National Insurance contributions—which would be given to companies reaching long-term pay settlements below the inflation limit.

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Mr Tom King (left), Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who yesterday condemned unionist attempts to undermine police morale in Ulster, and Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party, who denied encouraging political interference.

## 'Split pay care from NHS' call

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Private medicine should be split from the National Health Service with consultants barred from working in both sectors, a Labour Party-backed group opposed to private medicine said yesterday.

NHS Unlimited published a report detailing 150 alleged cases of abuses in the health service caused by private practice, with Mr Frank Dobson, Labour's health spokesman, saying that while the proposal to divorce private practice from the health service was not official Labour Party policy it "needs to be seriously considered."

The report follows audits in 1984 which showed that the NHS was losing millions of pounds in private patient income, from the failure of consultants to tell administrators about private patients, and of authorities to collect the money properly.

It says: "The only way to ensure that the health service is not abused and neglected through private practice is the complete separation of NHS and commercial medicine."

The report came out as Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, issued new detailed guidance to health authorities on private practice.

Deposits covering the full cost of treatment should be collected; the guidance says, unless there are good grounds for believing that no difficulty will arise over payment.

Bills should be presented weekly and final settlement sought before private patients are discharged. Private patients should pay the full cost of non-emergency transport in a health service ambulance, and consultants must keep common waiting lists to avoid queue jumping.

Mr Hayhoe said that private practice raised £56 million last year in England.

## Mixed reaction to manifesto report

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Conservative MPs reacted with a mixture of delight, disbelief and dismay yesterday to *The Times* report that the Prime Minister was planning to fight the next election on a full-blooded, radical manifesto.

But her supporters and opponents both agreed that there was no question about her ultimate power to outface Cabinet and backbench critics.

But some of her opponents said that if the Conservatives put up a poor showing in the three impending by-elections, the May local elections and in summer opinion polls the pressure for retrenchment could be overwhelming.

An attempt might be made to undermine Mrs Thatcher's authority by launching a leadership challenge in the autumn, on the understanding that if an opponent attracted between 30 and 100 votes he could weaken her grip on the party.

The manifesto, which began as the Prime Minister's election address, will carry the firm imprint of Mrs Thatcher's conviction politics.

Although there was no set form for establishing a manifesto, one central source said that there were precedents for the Cabinet considering a draft document. It was said yesterday that the February 1974 manifesto, drafted by Mr Nigel Lawson, had been considered by the Cabinet, albeit at a late stage.

The draft manifestos for the October 1974 and 1979 elections had also been considered by the Conservative Shadow cabinets.

## Labour's training strategy

By Our Political Staff

Education and training could become the responsibility of a single government department under a Labour administration with employers required to spend more on courses for staff.

A Labour Party discussion document published yesterday says the present fragmented system has failed to meet needs and demands it ought to satisfy.

The Government is accused of encouraging "elitism" and competition for limited places rather than equitable and open provision.

The central theme of the document, *Education and Training: Options of Labour*, is the need for Britain to become "a learning society", involving all the people.

"This will mean changing attitudes and overcoming the entrenched resistance which has dragged down the British training level to one of the lowest in the 'developing world'," it says.

While the education system is organized around intellectual achievement under the Department of Education and Science umbrella, training is largely job-related and delivered by a "plithora" of schemes, the document says.

The document contrasts the 40 per cent of British students aged 17 in full-time education with the 80 to 90 per cent figure of West Germany and Japan.

A primary school headteacher yesterday told a Commons select committee how a shortage of funds prevented her from buying the compasses and maps necessary to give her pupils a basic grounding in geography.

Each compass would have cost £8 and each large-scale local map £3, Mrs Wendy Morgan, of Elmest, Suffolk, told the education committee. The outlay was out of the question.



## Girls' bravery praised

Nicola Smith (left) who helped police to arrest three men after an armed bank robbery was yesterday awarded a Britannia Arrow-Ross McWhirter Young Citizen Award for six to 11-year-olds at a ceremony in London.

Nicola, aged 11, of Horchurch, Essex, was only nine when she memorized the number of the getaway car and gave police a good description of the robbers.

With her is Jennifer Christensen, aged 18, who was given a 10 per cent chance of survival after being severely injured by a stolen car two years ago. Jennifer, from Bromborough, Merseyside, lay in a coma for eight days after the accident. She was given a special award for her courage in the 15 to 18 age group.

## Protest by seamen on hospital

British ferry services are expected to be halted or disrupted on Thursday by a 24-hour stoppage called by the National Union of Seamen.

The move is in protest against plans to close the 113-year-old Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital at Greenwich and transfer patients to St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth, south London.

Union leaders said they expected services to Northern Ireland, the Orkneys and Shetlands, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands to be stopped.

British ferries to and from the Continent and the Irish Republic will be affected, although some space on foreign services will be available. Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, has approved the closure of the 149-bed hospital.

## Pay board looks at farm claim

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Agricultural Wages Board met yesterday to determine its response to a claim by the Transport and General Workers' Union for a 56 per cent pay increase for Britain's 316,000 farm workers.

The union has repeated its perennial demand for "parity" with average earnings in other industries which, it says, would entail a minimum wage for full time workers of £140 a week.

Its claim also includes a reduction in the working week from 40 to 35 hours, an increase in annual holiday entitlement from four to five weeks, and better terms for part-time and seasonal workers.

Mr Christopher French, vice-president of the National Farmers' Union, who is leading the employers' side in the negotiations, has dismissed the claim as wholly unrealistic in the light of an officially estimated 43 per cent fall in farmers' incomes last year.

According to a recent survey by the Low Pay Unit, the gap between agricultural and other industrial earnings is now £41 a head, and more than one in five full time farm workers are eligible for family income supplement.

Mr George Brown, who died last June aged 70, resigned as Foreign Secretary in the Wilson government in March 1968. Political commentators said it was the culmination of a Wilson-Brown feud.

## Thatcher will be ousted, Wilson says

Lord Wilson said: "The trouble is that she talks too much and takes too much on herself. She's not getting the support she needs, because she has not surrounded herself with very good people. It's no good trying to run a country single-handed."

Lord Wilson said Mrs Thatcher's biggest problem was her reluctance to delegate and listen to others. "Whatever happens in Cabinet, she'll still sum up decisions in the way she wants," he said.

Lord Wilson admitted that he had always liked the Prime Minister personally and there was a side to her that few knew about.

But he added: "You can't run a country just by trying to balance the books, and by throwing millions out of work until you do so. You have to think of the consequences and the cost to people. You have to use heads."

Lord Wilson said in the interview that the late Lord George-Brown was so drunk the night he resigned as Foreign Secretary "he could hardly walk to the back benches."

Lord Wilson said: "The biggest mistake I ever made was to appoint George Brown as Foreign Secretary."

"He had gone through Lent without touching a drop of drink and he insisted that he was on the wagon. Well, of course, he wasn't."

Lord Wilson added: "The trouble was that he could get drunk on next to nothing, so it was a disaster."

"He was such a fine man when he was sober—but the night he resigned he was so drunk he could hardly walk to the back benches."

"The whole House was very embarrassed."

Lord George-Brown, who died last June aged 70, resigned as Foreign Secretary in the Wilson government in March 1968. Political commentators said it was the culmination of a Wilson-Brown feud.

## Murdoch may meet Dean on Wapping

By Michael Horsnell, Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, is aiming to arrange a meeting between Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, and the print union leader Miss Brenda Dean, in an attempt to settle the dispute over the newspaper group's move to Wapping.

Sources at TUC headquarters in London said yesterday that Mr Willis plans to pave the way for top-level talks at a meeting this week between union leaders and Mr Bruce Matthews, the company's managing director.

But last night the company made it clear that negotiations involving Mr Murdoch could take place only if the unions accept they will not be allowed into Wapping. Talks about compensation could then go ahead.

Mr Murdoch met leaders of the National Union of Journalists at the plant and the four editors yesterday.

The four editors (chairmen) of the chapel said they were satisfied with "the constructive tone of the meeting", but remained concerned about the protracted nature of the dispute and about those who had been dismissed.

They expressed concern about the hostile environment and restricted access to normal contacts, and told Mr Murdoch he could not rely on journalists accepting such conditions indefinitely. They urged a swift and compassionate end to the dispute.

After the meeting, Mr Murdoch said: "I welcome the support journalists expressed today for the use of the new technology at Wapping, and admire the speed and skill with which they've taken to it."

"I sympathize with the concern they expressed about the difficulties of producing good journalism under 'siege' conditions. We all hope these conditions will end as soon as possible. In the meantime management will do what it can to protect the safety of our journalists and the editorial integrity of the papers."

"I pointed out to the FOCs that there is an important, positive side to our move to Wapping. We have secured the future of four titles, including the hundreds of jobs which depend on them. This is particularly true of the *Times*, which for the first time in many decades is now on a firm financial footing."

"Moreover, editorial integrity was under greater threat before we came to Wapping, when journalists were never sure our papers would be printed or their editorial freedom respected by the print unions."

"I appreciate the FOCs' concern for those who went on strike and were sacked. I hope they will express the same concern to those who called them out on strike. And I welcome the FOCs' remark that there is no desire among the journalists to have 'peace at any price' and no pressure on the company from the journalists to agree any settlement which would allow the old print unions in Wapping."

A forthcoming meeting between Mr Matthews and the five newspaper unions will be purely exploratory.

Mr Matthews said: "We have to take it very steadily to build bridges of understanding."

But he warned: "It is important to find out whether they want redundancy, having acknowledged the fight for Wapping is over. That would take us to a new stage in negotiations."

No sum of money has been earmarked to deal with hardship, he said.

Publication of the *Scottish Daily Record* appeared unlikely last night after another dispute between its publisher, Mr Robert Maxwell, and 600 print workers.

Members of the print union Sogat '82 were told for the second time in two weeks that they had effectively dismissed themselves.

Publication was suspended when printers refused to set an edition after being refused a right of reply.

## Jewellery clues in rapists search

By Stewart Tendler and Frances Gibb

Descriptions of six pieces of distinctive personal jewellery were released yesterday by detectives hunting the three men who raped a vicar's daughter in west London. They also bear her father and boy friend and then fled after burgling the home.

Meanwhile the Press Council said it would hold its own inquiry into newspaper coverage of the case amid accusations from MPs and others that some sections of the press had behaved "appallingly".

Police believe the jewellery will strengthen their chances of catching the three men as any attempt to sell the pieces will immediately identify their origin.

Apart from the jewellery police now know that a man's wallet was taken. It contained some personal items.

Details of the jewellery were released as police at the incident room in west London filed the latest in 500 pieces of information since appeals were made for the public's help.

Scotland Yard said the incident room had received its 1,000th call since it was opened at Hanwell.

Detectives hoped that pawnshops and second-hand jewellery dealers would take note of the descriptions of the missing pieces and report to the police immediately if they saw them.

No commercial value has been placed on the pieces which are said to be of great sentimental value and unique in appearance.

The pieces are: a hologram of a green spider on a gold chain; a real shell set in gold; an American sand dollar (which is a shell set in gold); a gold locket on a chain with a picture of the vicar's father-in-law, and a gold tie-pin about three inches long which has a guard on the point fashioned in the shape of a jockey's cap in blue and white stripes. The wallet had the initials MS in gold.

Mr Kenneth Morgan, director of the Press Council, said yesterday that a complaints committee of the council would study the reports and pictures which have been published, and ask the editors concerned for their comments on the coverage and conduct of their newspapers.

The inquiry is being set up after complaints about details of last week's attack in some newspapers and television bulletins and in particular a front page picture of the alleged rape victim in *The Sun* newspaper, with the girl's eyes blacked out.

Mr Robin Corbett, Labour MP for Erdington, has tabled a parliamentary question for priority answer by the Attorney General tomorrow asking whether he will institute proceedings against *The Sun* for breach of the law guaranteeing anonymity to rape victims and to defendants.

## New Stansted terminal is approved

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Government approval for a £290 million investment by the British Airports Authority in a new terminal at Stansted was announced by Mr Michael Spicer, Minister for Aviation, in the Commons yesterday.

Work is expected to start around the end of the year, subject to detailed planning permission from Uttlesford district council, which fiercely opposed development of Stansted until Parliament approved it last year.

The money will buy a new terminal, raising Stansted capacity to eight million passengers a year in about 1991 but not a new rail link, for which British Rail is at present seeking separate parliamentary approval.

That will cost another £40 million plus rolling stock, and is intended to link the new airport terminal with Liverpool Street in London.

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# £600,000 for girl of six born with multiple handicaps

A child aged six who has suffered multiple handicaps since her birth and has to be wakened every hour, was yesterday awarded £600,000 damages.

In the High Court, Mr Justice Turner was told how Caroline Turville's devoted parents had to cuddle her to sleep every night because of the "terrible and irreversible handicaps" she had suffered since her premature birth at the South London Hospital for Women and Children in October 1979.

The child was unable to speak or sit unaided and would be totally dependent on others for the rest of her life. Mr George Carman, QC, told the court.

He blamed Miss Elsie Sibthorpe, a consultant obstetrician, who had been contacted privately by the parents because of problems during the birth of their first child.

Mrs Jane Turville, aged 39, and Mr Peter Turville, aged 40, of Clarence Avenue, Clapham Park, south-west London, had been told by Miss Sibthorpe, who was present at the birth, that there were no risks although the baby might be born prematurely.

Lack of oxygen to the brain had caused severe damage and medical experts, consulted by the Turvilles, claimed that if there had been proper management there was every chance that the child would have been born healthy and normal.

Mr Carman said that she needed constant assistance with feeding, dressing and toilet needs.

Experts at the hearing said that her parents were giving her as good, if not better, care as she would receive in a special home.

Mr Carman criticized delays by representatives of Miss Sibthorpe and the Wandsworth Health Authority, which was responsible for the hospital, in offering a settlement. They denied negligence.

He said the fact that the settlement offer was as high as £600,000 could be seen as "powerful confirmation" that negligence would have been established.

"A claim on a full liability basis would be worth in excess of £1 million", Mr Carman said.

Mr Ian Kennedy, counsel for Miss Sibthorpe, said he was concerned at the suggestion of a delay. There had been "long and anxious discussions as to the question of liability".

It was not a case which showed any "gross lack of care", he said.

The health authority said: "We know that it is not going to be easy to care for Caroline in the years ahead and we are glad that settlement in this sad case has been reached." The authority agreed to pay the parents' legal costs.

The biggest damages ever received in a British court in a medical negligence case was £679,264 awarded at Cardiff last December to Miss Linda Thomas, aged 17, for brain injuries

caused by a fall from a tree when she was 12.

She was awarded £679,264 for brain injuries.



# Schoolchildren of minorities 'face language nightmare'

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Many children from ethnic minorities live in a nightmare world when they first go to school in Britain because they cannot cope with English, according to Professor Biku Parekh, vice-chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality.

These children should be taught in their mother tongue for the first two years at school, he says in a speech challenging official policy which he is to deliver tonight in London.

Half the children of ethnic minorities born in Britain probably come from families in which little or no English is spoken, Professor Parekh, who is professor of politics at Hull University, says. Going to school is for them an overwhelming and unnerving experience.

"Within the first years of their schooling they live in a nightmare world, as countless parents and sensitive teachers will testify. Over months the nightmare grows less frightening and they begin to settle down, but the effects persist."

"The capacity for future learning of some of them is perhaps permanently damaged, and in the case of a large number of them, several important gaps remain in their knowledge of English and persist all their lives."

Professor Parekh makes three recommendations:

● Children should be taught

in their mother tongues for the first two years;

● Their community languages - Greek, Polish, Arabic, Chinese, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Turkish and others - should be taught throughout primary school;

● Such languages should be taught together with other languages in secondary school.

Professor Parekh argues that resistance to bilingual education is grounded in linguistic parochialism. It also comes, he believes, from racist assumptions about the supposed inferiority of the minority cultures.

"It is instinctively assumed that the minority languages are not worth teaching and should be helped to die an early death," he says, and contends that the existence of, for example, 130 languages in inner London, should be seen instead as, "like North Sea oil, a wonderful windfall".

Other countries - Sweden, The Netherlands, Canada and the United States - use a child's minority language to introduce him or her to the dominant language.

A famous case in the American Supreme Court ruled that not to provide bilingual teaching at this stage was a gross and inhuman violation of the principle of equal opportunity, he adds, and says that preserving ethnic minority languages helps to preserve ethnic minority communities.



PO Slater with Simon Le Bon and (below) the Drum

## Fastnet rescue medal

A Royal Navy petty officer, who lifted 29 people including Simon Le Bon, the pop star, from stormy seas during the Fastnet Race last year, is to receive the George Medal.

PO Aircrewman Laurence Slater, aged 31, a search and rescue helicopter winchman, receives the medal for his work involving the yachts, Mister Cube and Drum England on August 11.

The pilot, Lieutenant David Marr, aged 26, and Acting PO Aircrewman Michael Palmer, aged 27, have been awarded

the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air for their role in the Mister Cube rescue.

In that rescue, PO Slater was lowered on the winch and fought his way past sails and whipping rigging to the cockpit where he found six children and three adults.

Later that day he and another crew went to the Drum where he rescued 18 survivors on the upturned hull and another six, including Simon Le Bon, trapped inside.

# Aquino calls Cabinet meeting Australia boosts Philippines aid

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Corazon Aquino has called a Cabinet meeting for tomorrow to decide whether to proclaim a six-month revolutionary government to implement sweeping reforms and draw up a new constitution for the Philippines.

Yesterday she met for 30 minutes with Mr Bill Hayden, Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister, who pledged a 50 per cent boost to economic aid to her 13-day-old administration, bringing Canberra's 1986 contribution to \$17.5 million (about £8.3 million). The US and Japan, which give the greatest amount of aid to the Philippines, have also promised to increase their contributions.

Meanwhile, Mr Marcos's political allies have denounced as "dictatorial" and "worse than martial law" Mrs Aquino's reported plan to proclaim a revolutionary government. Mr Arturo Tolentino, Mr Marcos's running mate in the February 7 election, said: "A revolutionary government is the very



Mr Hayden: Australia gives \$17.5 million.

antithesis of democracy."

Swept to power during a three-day military revolt and popular uprising, Mrs Aquino took her presidential oath in a "people's proclamation" hours before Mr Marcos fled the country. Mr Tolentino said the popular mandate, which circumvents the 1973 martial law constitution, "is the worst type of dictatorship, worse than martial law, because it is

a government of men out of a government of law".

He said there would be no laws other than those Mrs Aquino and her ministers choose to obey and enforce during the transitional period "which could be six months or 10 years."

"We are at the mercy of the people in power as to what laws govern us," he said.

Public criticism, coupled with the voiced reservations of Manila's diplomatic community, stalled the proclamation of a revolutionary government which was to have occurred last Friday.

Mrs Aquino's advisers have proposed a six-month "legal hiatus", during which a new constitution will be drawn up followed by a plebiscite. After its expected ratification, it is planned to hold combined general and local government elections.

On Friday the presidential palace, where Mrs Aquino has refused to either live or work, will be opened to the public as a "museum of folly".

# Marcos luggage hid £1m in notes

From Christopher Thorp, New York

Former President Marcos and his entourage fled the Philippines with more than £1 million in crisp, new printed notes, the attorney's office has revealed in Honolulu.

The first official details of the loot, which was stuffed in 22 boxes, came an hour after Mr Marcos failed to persuade a judge in Hawaii that he should not be made public matter of "fundamental fairness". Although there has been no official description of the jewellery the Marcos took, US authorities value it between \$5 million and \$10 million.

Mr Marcos seems to be over-staying his welcome in Hawaii, where he and his wife have sole use of the official club for dining and recreation. He is much given to shopping and losing his temper the way the US is treating him. He has been told firmly that it is time for him, his wife and their 90 relatives, servants and associates to move out.

It appears that he has found a temporary home in the hills overlooking Honolulu. Estate agents say he has leased two adjoining houses, a secluded residential district with a panoramic view of the Pacific. One of the houses which has three bedrooms was listed for sale recently for \$995,000. Local residents far from pleased at the prospect of having Mr Marcos as a neighbour.

The US attorney in Hawaii is expected to ask the federal district court to resolve disputed property claims between Mr Marcos and the Manila Government. Congressional sources said the Manila world holdings were estimated by the CIA to be worth more than \$2 billion.

MANILA: When she fled the Philippines, Mrs Imelda Marcos left behind an expensive designer clothing wardrobe, shoes and accessories to fill a department store, a journalist who visited the basement holding wardrobe said yesterday (reports).

# Terrorism poll Britons call for protection

By Richard Dowden

Most British people think military action against terrorists would not reduce international terrorism, but nearly half of those questioned in a recent opinion poll wanted the Government to do more to protect its citizens.

The MORI poll, conducted after the terrorist incidents in Rome and Vienna in December, showed that 47 per cent of Britons "questioned" whether the Government was not doing enough to protect Britons and nearly two-thirds thought there should be much stricter security at airports.

Only 29 per cent supported military action against terrorists and only 15 per cent supported military action against governments which give backing to terrorists.

The poll, carried out by the New York Times, was also conducted in France and Germany and disclosed even stronger feelings there that their governments could do

American travel agents yesterday gave approval to Britain as a safe place to spend a holiday.

After a long weekend in Britain organized by the British Tourist Authority, the 30 Americans were full of praise for the Old Country and, in particular, the new security arrangements at Heathrow terminal 4.

Mr Ron Francon of the American Association of Retail Travel Agents, said: "We have no qualms whatever about coming to Europe because isolated incidents can happen in any place."

more about terrorism, but there was even less enthusiasm for military action.

There was little support for President Reagan's call for sanctions against Libya in the wake of the Vienna and Rome incidents with 41 per cent of Britons questioned believing Britain should not support

such sanctions. However, on sanctions against countries which supported terrorism in general, 31 per cent of Britons were in favour.

Nearly two thirds of Britons and nearly half the French and West Germans thought military action by the United States against terrorists would make things worse.

People's confused feelings about terrorism were revealed in a question about the justification for terrorism. While about 90 per cent in all three countries said there was no excuse for the sort of incidents that occurred in Vienna and Rome, more than two-thirds agreed that those sort of incidents would continue so long as Israel was unyielding on the Palestine issue.

The interview sample consisted of 1,945 in Britain, 994 in France and 2,007 in West Germany. The poll was conducted between February 1 and February 21.

# Arts seek Budget windfall

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Arts organizations are expecting a windfall of between £10 million and £30 million a year from tax changes in next week's Budget.

Theatre and musical companies, which have lost their battle for state grants above the rate of inflation, may be among the main beneficiaries of new rules that will allow individuals and companies to set charitable donations against tax.

The changes expected in the Budget will cover all charities but arts groups have pressed for them. They say that in America, where contributions can already be set against tax, the concessions have brought strong links between private individuals and the arts.

Several arts bodies have submitted private memoranda to the Treasury with suggestions about how the new scheme could work. They believe that the immediate potential for increasing gifts to the arts will be in sponsorship by individuals to organizations which they patronize regularly.

The Arts Council is expected to press companies to set up skilled marketing operations to ensure that their clients know about the change.

It is unlikely that the changes will come into force in full until 1988 when the Inland Revenue moves to computerized tax handling. The final details will not be known until the Budget, but it seems likely that there will be a ceiling for tax deductible donations.

## Pop star's ban

Gary Glitter, the pop singer, was banned from driving for 10 years and fined £2,000 by Bicester magistrates in Oxfordshire yesterday, after admitting driving under the influence of drink for the third time.

# Security checks on Irish

Customs authorities have confirmed that, as a result of an IRA security alert during the royal tour, all Irish passport-holders are being subjected to special scrutiny on arrival in Australia (Stephen Taylor writes from Adelaide).

Irish nationals have been delayed for questioning and searches during what is being celebrated here as Irish Week.

Mr Bob Spaanswick, federal secretary of the Customs Officers' Association, said a memorandum sent to Customs branches throughout the country had warned that suspected members of the IRA were thought to have travelled to Australia in the past on the Dutch airline, KLM.

SYDNEY: The Irish Ambassador, Mr Joseph Small, said yesterday he was furious about reports of a security campaign against Irish nationals during the royal visit (Renter reports).

# Royal handshake for Queenie

From Stephen Taylor, Adelaide

"Her Majesty plants a gum tree," said the programme for the Queen's visit to Australia yesterday. Of such mundane fragments are royal tours composed.

The tree-planting was a symbolic affair, renewing the gum tree on the site where 200 settlers landed and proclaimed the colony of South Australia 150 years ago.

That the landing took place - indeed that South Australia was established at all - was no thanks to the *The Times*, which strongly opposed the Wakefieldians, the extraordinary compendium of idealists and Establishment profiteers who lobbied successfully for the South Australia Bill.

The paper thundered on July 2, 1834: "Our duty to the public requires that we should broadly declare our entire distrust of the whole character and tendency of such a project, and our hope that it

may rather be strangled in the birth than live just long enough to spread disappointment and ruin."

Fortunately such views did not prevail, and among the descendants of the first settlers who gathered yesterday was Queenie Bulbeck, an impish 89-year-old whose father was so sickly when he set out at the age of 15 on HMS Buffalo that it was feared he would not survive the trip. He did and so thrived that he sired many children, including Queenie when he was aged 75.

Waiting for the royal arrival, Queenie Bulbeck ventured that the Queen must get fed up. "We make her do far too much," she said.

The Queen arrived and duly turned spade-fuls of earth on to the young gum tree. Introduced to Queenie Bulbeck, she shook her hand and smiled gently.

# Collision train on the wrong line, BR says

The train in which the driver was killed in a head-on collision with a diesel engine was on the wrong track, British Rail confirmed yesterday.

Five of the 27 passengers injured were still in hospital yesterday.

The 6.33 pm Sheffield to Manchester train with 128 passengers on board was travelling at about 25 mph where the speed limit was 30 mph, British Rail said.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport, told the Commons that the driver, Mr Edward Everett, was allowed to pass a signal set at danger.

An inquiry into the accident, at Chanley in Derbyshire, is under way.

Mr Everett, aged 41, was from Mexborough, South Yorkshire. Parliament, page 4

# Settle railway route 'could make £1m'

An Inter-City 125 service from West Yorkshire to Strathclyde using the threatened Settle-Carlisle line, could help to make £1 million a year profit for British Rail, according to a report by transport consultants.

The £4,000 report by Transport and Environment Studies (TES), commissioned by the Settle-Carlisle Joint Action Committee, calls for an investment of nearly £25 million in the 72-mile route so that a 100 mph service can be introduced in 1989 when electrification of the east coast main line makes high-speed trains available.

The travelling time of a little over three hours would be much faster than other road or rail routes and "compares very favourably" with the air service.

Test maintains that even without marketing the service, an estimated 722 passengers a

day would give a 55 per cent load on the train; enough to yield a 7 per cent return on the investment which would pay the cost of track improvements within 13 years and give a surplus of £36 million after 30 years.

It argues strongly for the retention of the Blackburn to Hellifield branch, the urgent reopening of the Clitheroe station and a new "figure eight service" linking Leeds, Bradford, Manchester and Preston. A Skipton to Carlisle service, stopping at stations presently used only by Dales Rail excursions, has also been suggested.

"It would require the most skilful of adversaries to argue, from the evidence presented, against keeping these two lines open", Test says.

British Rail's Settle-Carlisle spokesman was not available for comment.

# Watchdog breed sharpens its image

Seven years can be quite a short time in politics. Many MPs still look on the work of Parliament's investigatory committees as a dull necessary drudgery.

There was more justice in this view before the 1979 reshaping of the committee system, when a network of subcommittees was replaced by a set of committees each having a sustained brief to watch the activities of a particular government department.

Many MPs suspect that the system, with its opportunities for tours of inspection abroad, has more than a trace of the low gravity train about it. Their low opinion of the committees is reinforced by lapses such as reinforced by Mr last week's outburst by Mr Clement Freud about the education committee's choice of hotel on an excursion to Oxford and the recent leaking from the environment committee of a confidential draft report to *The Times*.

Ministers listen far more respectfully to some parliamentary committees than others. Some leak and squabble, some pride themselves on an almost judicial esprit de corps. George Hill looks at the unwritten pecking order among committees in the second of a two-part series.

Committee MPs would reply that the Chamber of the House for all its drama, cannot exercise an effective sustained scrutiny over Whitehall in the way committees can.

Committee men and floor-of-the-House men still tend to be different breeds. Among committee men, too, there are sharp distinctions.

Some committees operate in intensely confidential areas. One such was the foreign affairs committee, which solemnly inspected the secret "Crown Jewels" documents in the Ponting affair.

Such committees are necessarily discreet, and their members are selected with regard to that: the selection of members

is a prize example of Westminster word-in-the-right-quarter procedures.

This discipline helps to give some committees a strong sense of cross-party cohesion. They are close-knit in their personal relationships and relatively uninterested in party political point-scoring. Membership of such committees is highly prized.

Where there are fewer secrets to keep, the atmosphere tends to be different, the political give-and-take more robust, the commitment of members arguably less, and the turnover of membership greater.

The Education Committee, Environment Committee and Social Services Committee are

all examples of the second category.

Most of the leaders of the main parties have been on the front benches since 1979, when the committee system was reformed.

Committee proceedings are often little attended to, and it is difficult for ambitious younger members to make themselves a name there.

At present, if faced with a choice between a place on a select committee and a parliamentary private secretaryship, the temptation for a younger member to get one foot on the ministerial ladder is strong.

But experience gained in committee can be deployed on the floor of the House, and if the new respect and attention which have been directed towards committees by the Westland affair are sustained, committee work will increasingly be seen as an important arena for members setting out to make a name for themselves. Concluded

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# Nicaraguan economy in crisis Prices and wages increase as US blockade bites

From John Carlin, Managua

Even without the increased aid President Reagan is seeking for the Nicaraguan rebels, the country's economy has forced the Sandinista Government to introduce drastic new economic measures for the second time this year.

Affirming that it was necessary to "continue controlling an economic crisis, the product of imperialist aggression", the statement said the adjustments would help "consolidate the total defeat of the mercenary forces", the Sandinistas' usual term for the American-backed Contra rebels.

Facing a 10-month-long economic blockade by the US and spending more than 40 per cent of the national budget on defence, the Government finds itself economically strangled. Only two months ago it announced a devaluation of 150 per cent which, together with these latest measures, is felt certain to boost the cycle of hyper-inflation.

Diplomats in Managua said that, if President Reagan succeeds in persuading the US Congress to approve \$100 million (£67 million) in aid to the estimated 15,000 Contras, the damage will be greater in economic than military terms inside Nicaragua.

The 70,000-strong Sandinista Army has been containing the Contras with consistently greater ease in the last year, a pattern that is unlikely to change unless US military involvement increases dramatically.

But aid to the Contras obliges the Sandinistas to focus attention on defence, draining the rest of the impoverished economy at incalculable long-term political cost.

## Aid delay favoured by Contras

From Our Correspondent San José, Costa Rica

A leading anti-Sandinista political leader, Dr Arturo Cruz, says he favours a compromise on Contra aid which would delay distribution of new military funds while peace talks are attempted with the Nicaraguan government.

Dr Cruz, one of the three leaders of the United Nicaraguan Organization, said in an interview here on Sunday: "My impression is that some sort of aid will go. Dr Cruz said he was in favour of Congress appropriating aid but refraining from dispersing funds against the military component until a certain deadline had been given to the Contadora group to obtain a (negotiated) national solution with the Nicaraguan Government.

## Reagan fights for full funding of anti-Sandinistas

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan does not want any "half-way measures" and has not sent any signals to Congress that he is ready to compromise in his fight to secure \$100 million (£67 million) in military and other aid for the Contra rebels, the White House said yesterday.

"The President is in the same position he was in last week. He's proposed what we think is the best approach to Central American funding," Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said. "We don't want any half-way measures. That sums it up." His remarks came as Mr Reagan stepped up his efforts to force the controversial proposal through Congress, with an address to an audience of conservative supporters and several meetings yesterday afternoon with individual congressmen.

Senator James Sasser has

proposed a freeze on the aid for six months to give a chance for diplomatic talks on Nicaragua to get going. But the White House has rejected such a moratorium as being too long. Mr Philip Habib, the President's new envoy for Central America, is expected to leave today for talks with President Duarte in El Salvador.

Mr Speakes said the President would listen to what others have to say on the aid proposal and would discuss it, but he had not changed his position. Officials here insist that Honduras, Costa Rica and other Central American states are privately urging the Administration not to let up in its efforts to help the Contras.

However, a senior official admitted that the President would eventually probably have to settle for less than the full amount he wants.

## Liberals take lion's share in Colombia election

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogotá

The Liberal Party swept to an impressive victory in congressional and local government elections in Colombia at the weekend which were viewed as primaries for the forthcoming presidential election.

On the basis of the Sunday poll results, the Liberal Party's presidential candidate, Señor Virgilio Barco Vargas, must be considered the favourite to win the May 25 presidential election, despite the continuing divisions in the Liberal ranks.

Although the Liberals have traditionally been Colombia's majority party and had been expected to garner the lion's share of the votes, the scale of their triumph surprised political analysts here.

With most results in, projections yesterday gave the Liberal Party 47 per cent and the Conservatives 36 per cent of the vote.

But the big surprise of the election was the disastrous showing of the Nuevo Liberalismo movement, a breakaway Liberal faction, which had been expected to bite deep into the Liberal vote but instead emerged with only a 9 per cent share.

There must now be serious doubts over whether Señor Luis Carlos Galán Sarmiento, the leader of the breakaway Liberal faction, can continue to pursue the presidency. Four years ago his candidacy split the Liberal vote and led to the victory of the Conservative, Señor Belisario Betancur.

This year's Conservative presidential candidate, Señor Alvaro Gómez Hurtado, had clearly hoped to be the beneficiary of a similar split in the Liberal vote.

Sunday's results underlined the old Colombian axiom that a week is a long time in politics. Last week the Liberal camp was pessimistic about its chances of defeating Señor Galán's challenge. There were also rumours that Señor Barco would step down on health grounds and be replaced as presidential candidate by former President Alfonso López Michelsen. Instead, Señor Barco's position has been enormously strengthened and his hold on the candidacy secured.

Apart from a few minor incidents, the elections were orderly and peaceful, despite fears that subversive groups, particularly the leftist "April 19 Movement" (M-19), might try to disrupt the voting.

## Party merger hopes fade in Zimbabwe

Harare - The first rally held by Mr Joshua Nkomo since the elections last July has reinforced concern over the future of talks to unite his Zanu party and Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu (PF) (Ian Raath writes).

Observers believe that the rally of about 80,000 Zanu loyalists in a stadium in Bulawayo on Sunday was to prepare them for an announcement that the talks, which began in September, will be called off.

Mr Nkomo repeatedly emphasized the need to negotiate an end to the hostility between the two parties.

Four of the six are associated with the magazine *Andisís*, which has long advocated the unity of the Chilean opposition. They are accused of violation of state security laws and, in the case of Señor Fernando Paulsen, editor of *Andisís* and *Time* magazine's

editorial of a similar split in the Liberal vote.

At yesterday's hearing, Dr Erdal Atabek, former chairman of the Turkish League of Physicians, demanded his and his friends' acquittal, noting that he had already spent 38 months in prison.

The pacifist leaders, including Mr Mahmut Dikerdem, a former ambassador, were arrested during the crackdown on intellectual dissent after the 1980 military coup. They were accused of subversive activities in line with alleged instructions from the outlawed Turkish Communist Party and the Moscow-run World Peace Council.

Their prosecution, along with other intellectuals and trade unionists, caused widespread criticism in the West.

## Chilean junta opponents jailed

From Lake Sagaris, Santiago

Santiago correspondent, defamations of the armed forces.

Between them, Chile's six newest political prisoners represent the entire spectrum of the country's divided opposition. Historically, the opposition has been divided into two relatively powerful groups: the Democratic Alliance, centred on the moderate Christian Democratic Party, and the Popular Democratic Movement, led by the Communists.

Among the prisoners are Señor Andrés Palma, president of the Christian Democratic Youth.

Their arrest has created a broad support movement, the National Commando of Solidarity, which is led by Señor Alejandro Hales, a former

Minister of Mines in President Eduardo Frei's Christian Democratic Government.

In a peaceful demonstration in Santiago's main law courts late last week, Señor Hales said the regime had stepped up threatening tactics.

He accused the junta of using legislation designed to protect a democratic government against political leaders who are fighting precisely for a return to democratic rule in Chile.

Shortly before being imprisoned, the prominent independent, Señor Manuel Sanhueza, said the crackdown was a challenge to Chilean dissidents to "show their ability to carry on the process of restoring democracy".

Lord Carrington, Nato's Secretary-General, and Mr Remy Labbers, the Dutch Prime Minister and current chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers.

Señor Fraga carefully emphasized, however, that "we are the real Atlanticists". The Government had turned the referendum into a plebiscite, and the question before the voters was "full of tricks".

A "yes" result meant Spain would have only "second-class nation status" in the alliance. The Opposition wants full integration in Nato's command structures, which is

ruled out by the Government. The Government resorted to desperate arguments to win over voters in the last hours of campaigning. Speaking in Basque country, Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, the Foreign Minister, said that, should Spain quit Nato, "morally speaking the European Community will have finished with us".

Groups opposed to Nato membership said Sunday's rally in Madrid, attended by about 100,000 people, showed victory within their grasp. Señor Antonio Gala, the playwright, who is chairman of the

"Citizens' Forum for Leaving Nato", declared: "There are times like now when citizens' movements are more important than the political parties. We are going to go where we want to, and not where they want to take us."

Pacifist and anti-Nato groups joined forces with the Communists for the rally, which was also addressed by former General Gerd Bastian, the West German Greens leader, and Britain's Moinist Bruce Kent, deputy chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

A communiqué released by the Islamic extremists on the Saturday night kidnapping accuses the four-mon television crew of being involved in suspicious activities.

Last week the Islamic Jihad claimed one of the original hostages had been killed and another would be killed if two Iraqi dissidents, expelled by France last month, were not returned to France within seven days.

Three official French emissaries have been sent to Damascus, Beirut and Tehran to negotiate the hostages' release but the Iranian Government has refused a visa to the delegate bound for Tehran.

## Sweden pays a silent tribute to Palme



Mrs Lisbeth Palme, the widow of Olof Palme, with her sons Marten, Mattias and Jerkum, in Parliament during a one-minute silence for the assassinated Swedish leader.

As the clocks struck noon, everything stopped and there was silence (Christopher Mosey writes from Stockholm).

On the streets crowds stood still and most traffic halted as, on a cold, grey day with the Baltic shrouded in fog, Sweden yesterday paid a silent tribute to the Prime Minister cut down by a single shot fired by

a man police describe as "a professional murderer" on February 28.

With the precision and efficiency with which it prides itself, Sweden switched to contemplation of the act of violence. All trains, the Stockholm underground, buses, Gothenburg's trams and taxis stopped. Shops, offices and factories fell silent.

Even the thus far futile hunt for Mr Palme's killer was halted as were the security preparations for his state funeral on Saturday, which will be attended by 600 guests, including many world leaders.

Britain will be represented by Lord Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council, Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, and Mr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, and a member of Mr Palme's Independent Disarmament Commission will also attend.

Yesterday it was announced Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister of Israel, heavily

guarded, would fly to Stockholm in a special aircraft, to attend the funeral.

Back in Parliament a bouquet of flowers was put on the bench that was usually occupied by Mr Palme.

As the silence ended, Mr Ingemar Bengtsson, the Speaker, paid tribute to the former leader saying Mr Palme "wanted to live in an open society. He believed there should be no gap between the elected and the elector".

## Turks free pacifist leaders

From Rasit Gurdilek Ankara

An Istanbul military court ordered yesterday the release of the last six Turkish pacifists remaining in jail in connection with the controversial trial of the leaders of the Turkish Peace Association.

The court also withdrew arrest warrants for five other pacifists.

Twenty-three leaders of the association, including writers, journalists, lawyers, academics and artists, had been sentenced to prison terms ranging from five to eight years, but the sentences were twice repealed.

Seventeen of them had been released earlier, including Mr Orhan Aycan, former chairman of the Istanbul Bar Association and the deputy president of the World Union of Bar Associations, who died of cancer last month.

At yesterday's hearing, Dr Erdal Atabek, former chairman of the Turkish League of Physicians, demanded his and his friends' acquittal, noting that he had already spent 38 months in prison.

The pacifist leaders, including Mr Mahmut Dikerdem, a former ambassador, were arrested during the crackdown on intellectual dissent after the 1980 military coup. They were accused of subversive activities in line with alleged instructions from the outlawed Turkish Communist Party and the Moscow-run World Peace Council.

Their prosecution, along with other intellectuals and trade unionists, caused widespread criticism in the West.

## South Africa police tighten security after bombings

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Security has been tightened at all South African police stations after the detention of a white woman at the weekend in connection with the planting of bombs at three police stations over the past few weeks.

Meanwhile, the police reported that they had shot dead a black man allegedly throwing a petrol bomb at a house in the Bongweni township, near Cookhouse in the Eastern Cape, on Sunday night. They said they also found the body of a 15-year-old black youth who had apparently been hacked to death.

So far the only information the police have released about the mysterious white woman is that she is 27 years old, was arrested in Johannesburg. They said she had three limpet mines in her possession.

Last Tuesday a mine of that type exploded in a second-floor lavatory in John Vorster Square, the police headquarters for the Johannesburg region. Two white policemen and two white civilians were injured by flying glass.

Last Friday night a similar device was found in a women's lavatory at a police station in the Hillbrow district of central Johannesburg. It was taken into a cordoned-off side street and detonated. A few windows were broken, but no one was hurt.

Both attacks on police stations in black areas are frequent, but attacks on stations in white areas are a new phenomenon. No organization has yet claimed responsibility for them, although the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) would be the most likely suspect.

It is not unknown for the ANC to use whites for sabotage missions. Only recently a young white man was sentenced to seven years in prison for treason after undergoing military training with the ANC abroad and returning with an AK-47 rifle and a number of hand grenades.

In Cape Town, three blacks have agreed to come forward and testify publicly at a possible murder hearing that they saw the police shoot dead a man after he had attempted to give himself up. They also say the police shot dead another man who was lying wounded on the ground.

The incidents allegedly occurred when the police shot dead seven black men on March 3 in Guguletu, near Cape Town. The men were said by the police to be ANC "terrorists" who had been planning to ambush a van carrying police to work.

A young British doctor, David Bowen, aged 28, who has been working as a gynaecologist for the past four years at Soweto's Baragwanath hospital, has said he intends to leave South Africa after being attacked last

week by a black mob while going home on his motor cycle.

Describing it as a "horrific experience", Dr Bowen said he was surrounded by the crowd who threw stones at him and beat him on the head with a metal pole even after he had explained he was a doctor. He believed he had been saved from death only because he was wearing a helmet.

Miners' strike: Some 20,000 black miners are reported to be on strike at two gold mines south-west of Johannesburg. The management of the Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mine near Carletonville, owned by Rand Mines, said that 7,000 miners had gone on strike yesterday for reasons not yet known.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) claimed that 10,000 blacks were involved in a "sit-in strike underground" at the mine because of discontent with the "bonus system", whereby white miners get extra pay depending on the amount of ore dug out by the gangs of black labourers in their

charge.

At the Anglo-American Corporation's Vaal Reefs mine, near Klerksdorp, which is the second-biggest gold mine in South Africa, some 10,000 black employees are reported to be still not working in a dispute that began last month.

Ships stormed

Dhaka (AP) - Bangladesh security forces stormed six government-owned merchant ships at Chittagong and removed 80 striking officers and their families in an attempt to end a 10-day work stoppage.

## Spy jailed

Seoul (AFP) - A Japanese student aged 25 has been jailed for seven years by a South Korean court for spying for North Korea.

Church attack

La Puente, California (AP) - A gunman stood up during church service and opened fire on the congregation, killing one man and injuring two other people who had apparently been involved in domestic dispute with him.

## Plane found

Taipei (UPI) - A domestic Boeing 737 with 13 people aboard, missing in the Taiwan Strait for three weeks, has been found at the bottom of the ocean near the Pescadore Islands, China Airlines said.

## Stand-off by sacked general

Quito (Reuters) - Ecuadorian naval officers appeared to have defused the crisis in the armed forces yesterday, persuading the dismissed armed forces chief to submit to military authority.

But General Frank Vargas Pazos, sacked by President Febres Cordero on Friday for insubordination, said he would remain at the Manta air base until a council of military chiefs considered his case.

"I have agreed to submit myself to military laws and this problem will be resolved according to the legal military order," he said.

It was not clear whether the stand-off would be acceptable to the President or to General Luis Páez, the Defence Minister, whom General Vargas has accused of bribery and misuse of military funds.

General Páez has denied any wrongdoing, and has called in government auditors.

## Tehran recalled

Paris - The news media here were yesterday comparing the kidnapping of four French television men with the American hostage crisis in Tehran, which ended in January 1980 after 444 days (Susan MacDonald writes).

Similarities have been noted: the Islamic Fundamentalists sought to bring President Carter to his knees at the end of his term and now they seek to humiliate the French Socialist Government just a week away from the general elections.

A communiqué released by the Islamic extremists on the Saturday night kidnapping accuses the four-mon television crew of being involved in suspicious activities.

Last week the Islamic Jihad claimed one of the original hostages had been killed and another would be killed if two Iraqi dissidents, expelled by France last month, were not returned to France within seven days.

Three official French emissaries have been sent to Damascus, Beirut and Tehran to negotiate the hostages' release but the Iranian Government has refused a visa to the delegate bound for Tehran.

## Briton dies in rape attack

A British student teacher working in West Germany died in hospital yesterday after being attacked in a park in Hamburg.

Miss Helga Roberts, aged 22, from Ashdon, Essex, was language student on a year sabbatical leave and is believed to have been raped before being strangled and left dead.

German police believe she was either on her way home from a railway station or jogging when she was attacked only 200 yards from where she was staying.

## Gandhi plot trial starts

New York - A Sikh who has lived in the United States since 1982 went on trial yesterday on charges of plotting to assassinate Mr Raj Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, when he visited the US last year (Christopher Thomas writes).

Gurpartap Singh Birk, aged 35, a computer scientist, is accused of conspiring to purchase explosives and weapons as part of a plan to foment revolutions in India. He is pleading not guilty.

## Holy role

Boston (UPI) - The Roman Catholic archdiocese of Boston is using actresses to portray nuns and do-gooder students in television commercials aimed at boosting donations from the public to \$5 per cent to \$11 million (£7.5 million) this year.

## Poppy battle

Islamabad (UPI) - Fifty people were killed and 3 wounded when poppy growers clashed with paramilitary troops sent to destroy the crops in the Gadoon Amazi tribal area in Pakistan North-West Frontier Province.

## Church attack

La Puente, California (AP) - A gunman stood up during church service and opened fire on the congregation, killing one man and injuring two other people who had apparently been involved in domestic dispute with him.

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## Spanish right stays opposed to Nato poll

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor Manuel Fraga, the right-wing opposition leader and a fervent believer in Nato, called a press conference here yesterday to insist that his supporters abstain in tomorrow's referendum on Spain's membership.

"Our abstaining constitutes a 'yes' to Nato and a 'no' to this referendum," Señor Fraga said, predicting that more "no" votes would come from any other group as a result of the party's "decade of demagoguery" against the alliance.

He refused to comment when asked about the concern expressed at the weekend by

Lord Carrington, Nato's Secretary-General, and Mr Remy Labbers, the Dutch Prime Minister and current chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers.

Señor Fraga carefully emphasized, however, that "we are the real Atlanticists". The Government had turned the referendum into a plebiscite, and the question before the voters was "full of tricks".

A "yes" result meant Spain would have only "second-class nation status" in the alliance. The Opposition wants full integration in Nato's command structures, which is

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### The communal conflict in Sri Lanka

# Tamils step up attacks on Sinhalese villagers

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

Proving precisely how difficult it is to forecast a volcanic insurgency, news of a renewed terrorist attack on Sinhalese civilians in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province was breaking just as the National Security Minister was telling me that the situation in the east was much improved, and that it could be cleared up "I think by June".

Mr Lalith Athulthumudali said there could be no timetable, "no miracles" but he was confident that security had improved, "partly because of the military effort, but partly because the people there are with us."

"The terrorists in the areas they controlled did not behave well," he said. "They have hung too many people on the lamp-posts. But we have proved the old military theory of domination by presence. We have been able to put enough people on the ground there."

Mr Athulthumudali, the Oxford and Harvard-educated strong man of the Cabinet, was not so confident about the situation in the far north. In

the Jaffna peninsula the military have been unwilling to do much ground patrolling, for fear of road mining, and have concentrated on air attacks on rebel targets.

The air bombardment has caused distress among the densely populated lanes and villages of the peninsula. Mr Athulthumudali said yesterday that he had stopped using bombs "because they were so inaccurate", although he admitted: "Air power necessarily means that someone is going to be killed that you didn't intend. We are also having a serious rethink about using the rockets as well," he said.

Threats by the Tamil militants, who are fighting for a separate state in the north and east, to acquire surface-to-air missiles were treated seriously, but he was confident that by the time they were able to purchase them, the armed forces would have counter-measures in place.

Reports circulating in Colombo indicate that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the biggest group of active

militants, has failed in two attempts to buy Sam 7 missiles from sources in Britain.

Yesterday's attack in Eastern Province was on Sinhalese who had returned to a village from which they had been driven by the militants. A police guard at an irrigation project was inadequate to protect them when they were attacked again. Eight people were killed, two of them Tamils working on the project.

Sinhalese civilians in a similar situation in neighbouring Dehiwatte were attacked last month and 36 were killed, together with four of their military escort.

Attacks of this kind have been increasing recently. The aim appears to be to drive the Sinhalese out of areas which the militants claim as traditional Tamil homelands.

Military attacks upon Tamil civilians have also continued. On the same day as the Dehiwatte attack, security forces opened fire on a crowd of Tamil civilians as they threshed their paddy in fields

in the Amparai district. Reports suggest that a group of Muslim farmers who had been driven off by Tamil militants returned with the security forces. Forty people died.

In response to cries of outrage at the indiscriminate slaughter, an inquiry by the armed forces chiefs of staff was set up. "After I get the report, I shall hand it to the Attorney-General for action," Mr Athulthumudali said.

There are also protests about a security zone set up in Jaffna in which a half-mile circle has been drawn around the military encampment in the old fort. The troops say that within the circle they will feel free to return mortar fire if they are shot at.

The area includes the city hospital, post offices, hotels and other public buildings, the main bus station and the busiest bazaar.

So far, however, the right to fire has not been used, except by a nervous sentry who fired at three pensioners arriving early to queue for their pensions. They were shot dead.

# Kremlin cools to privilege critics

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Leading traditionalists within the Soviet Communist Party have launched a campaign to halt the debate on special privileges for senior members that accompanied the 27th party congress.

Yesterday Mr Igo Schvets, a member of the new Central Committee and a leading party organizer, denied that many of the privileges — including elite buffets, shops and hospitals — existed. To the audible disbelief of foreign journalists, he claimed that he was not permitted to attend any special shops as a Central Committee member. "I also stand in the queues, and we stand together," he said.

Mr Schvets angrily dismissed a question on the issue from *The Times* as "an artificially aired question" and denied that it had occupied anything but an insignificant proportion of the 163,000 suggestions for party rule changes in the run-up to the congress, which ended last week.

Senior Western diplomats claimed later that his press conference — the last of a series of congress issues — was evidence of a deep split within the party on the issue and the degree of open debate on it that should be permitted.

The debate was seen as the first sign of significant opposition to the reforming drive of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev.

Western sources claim that the privileges also include access to special housing, holiday facilities and other aspects of Soviet life unavailable to ordinary workers. All members of the Central Committee receive black limousines with a chauffeur, which have the right to use the central lanes on all Moscow's boulevards reserved for top party and government cars.

In the congress debates, the privileges were bitterly attacked by, among others, Mr Boris Yeltsin, the tough new chief of the Moscow City Communist Party and a junior member of the Politburo. He was later indirectly rebuked by Mr Ygor Ligachev, the Politburo number two, who said the limits to public criticism of sensitive issues had been overstepped already.

Yesterday Mr Schvets supported that view, reacting defensively to all questions on privileges. He acknowledged that special clinics existed for party members, but argued that the tradition went back to the era of Lenin and was similar to other Soviet organizations, such as industrial enterprises.

Among other leading figures who have lent their weight to the campaign to restrict the debate is President Gromyko. This backlash is believed by Western experts to have strong support among the middle ranks of the 18 million members of the party.

Mr Schvets also disclosed yesterday that pre-conference attempts to have enforced retirement for officials built into the revised party rules had failed.

## FASHION I

# Pure

INTERNATIONAL COLLECTIONS

## MILAN

Fit, shape and form are the new message from the centre of casual elegance

Milan fashion used to be about a curvy sweater, a pair of leather trousers and a touch of tender tailoring. Now Italy means fit, form and shape. Skinny skirts, a strong revival of the day dress and glitzy evening glamour is the message from Milan. The accent has moved from the hips to the waist, bust and derriere, and designers love the little black dress.

It all seems much more like haute couture than laid-back Milanese sportswear. Designers are even talking about showing evening collections in Rome alongside the Alta Moda. Keeping the Milan shows as casualwear de luxe.

The new Italian silhouette is an S. That stands for shape, and makes the favoured fabrics clinging jersey or drapes of mat chiffon.

Gianfranco Ferré and Gianni Versace have been a couture cut above the rest to the first two days of showings. Versace showed a strong collection that looked modern in spite of a hint of 1950s Balenciaga in the layered hemlines and on apron prints from the sharp end of the 1960s.

Versace's strength is that he works at the frontiers of fabric technology and experimenting this season with some imaginative cutting. This was at its best in his tailoring, cut on the curve for fitted three-quarter jackets over slim skirts, or a steel grey alpaca coat with panels of fabric each brushed a different way.

The curves were bisected by angular optic prints that came in jazzy black and white or in silver or black for Versace's high-tech metal mesh.

This was a good collection, but one that demands a perfect figure and a sophisticated way of life. The only concession to easy Italian elegance was a long pleated chiffon skirt worn with elongated knit cardigans and some mouthwatering colours of apple green, orange sorbet, and primrose yellow.

It was the same story at Ferré, who needs the best legs in town to show off his short, tight skirts or his cut-away black jersey evening dresses cinched with gilded hoops at the waist. Ferré's structure is subtle and so are the best of his colours: caramels and beiges



Rising star: Romeo Gigli endorses the plain jersey sculpted dress (top)

that deepened to beech brown and hotted up to vibrant coral.

A master cutter does not have to stick to tailoring and some of Ferré's most delicious clothes were camel cashmeres, horizontally ribbed and worked in interesting waist-length shapes.

Ferré has a new line that pushes fabrics forwards so that the folds are gathered in at the front. This was used for jersey tops to the clingy skirts, for long fire-red shantung coats or for puritan white organdie blouses. Trousers will save his customers from the short skirts which were at their most doubtful in stretch gold tux.

The nouvelle couture story was rammed home by Fendi yesterday, when the famous fur house showed first its clothes collection. Paris-based Karl Lagerfeld offers chic French suits with frayed jackets and tight skirts in camel and black. Skin-tight, drop-dead evening dresses under floor-

length taffeta coats looked like Old-style Hollywood or pop stars trying to look simple.

When the furs came out it was quite a different mood, for the sweeps of skin were shown over black-ribbed turtlenecks and leggings. The stretch jersey body, pioneered in Paris by Alaïa, was the base for a fabulous collection of furs, all generously cut to swirl or cinched at the waist. The Fendi sisters push fur to its technical limits, and Lagerfeld stretches the imagination. The result was furs draped to look like wind-tossed water, and dyed a Neptune's kingdom of greens and blues, as well as furs that were left in all their natural glory.

The Missoni colour and print was handled with skill this season. Fitted jackets in fitted boiled wool were printed with wild swirls of colour and married well with slim skirts or narrow trousers. The jackets also came short, wide and swirly over the tube skirts; they were belted by elongated thigh-length cardigans. Silhouette prints showed greyhounds, shafts and dancers in action on slinky silk jersey that was softened by a rippling pleatum of fabric at the waist. Big pouchy berets or curly cocktail hats gave a couture touch to this spirited collection.

A certain style of Italian woman is celebrated by Marracò, Mandelli or Krizia — the kind who is flamboyant, feline and cuddles into her clothes. Krizia by day stayed nearest to the essential Italian image: short curly jackets, ritz fur, soft sweaters and easy skirts. These were surprisingly long — to mid-calf — in soft wool or tubular ribbed knit veined like marble. At night it was showbusiness as usual, with raunchy sheath dresses in cerise or scarlet satin, plasticized sequined chiffon and glitter chain-mail.

The most interesting collection of the week has come from 36-year-old Romeo Gigli, who took as his theme that other symbol of Italian womanhood, the madonna.

With arms piously crossing their breasts, make-up free faces demurely down, his models walked in like a First Communion class. They wore clothes of great purity and simplicity: the plainest tubular sweaters or long cardigans in oatmeal or black — black in jersey, wool, crepe and chiffon, made up 90 per cent of this collection.

Romeo Gigli, like Ferré, first trained as an architect. He cuts and wraps cleverly, influenced by the Japanese, and his high-waisted madonna dresses, long medieval waists and monkish hoods looked fresher and more directional than Milan's high fashion fit.

Giorgio Armani, Italy's master tailor, is still to show tonight. We wait to see whether he will stick to stylish sportswear or bowl for the bodyline.

Photographs by Harry Kerr

# Museveni moves in on north

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

National Resistance Army troops are poised to take northern Uganda — the last region to fall — after capturing Gulu, 208 miles north of Kampala, at the weekend. Gulu is the main administrative centre for the whole of northern Uganda.

President Museveni's troops captured Kampala on January 26 after driving out the armed forces of the former ruling Military Council, led by General Tito Okello and his army commander, General Basilio Okello.

Since then, they have been consolidating their hold on the country by moving first to the Kenya border in eastern Uganda and then turning northwards.

Until last week Uganda was virtually divided in two: the NRA controlled the south, east and west of the country while the Military Council controlled the north.

But the fleeing Military Council troops appear to have lost their will to fight as Gulu fell within three hours.

There has been no news of General Basilio Okello, who appears to have left Gulu before the assault. General Tito Okello, the former head of state, is in Sudan and has not yet responded to appeals from Mr Museveni to return to Uganda under a promise of safe conduct.

There are still large areas of northern Uganda to be taken by Mr Museveni's troops, and it is thought they will continue their advance north to the Sudan border, about 60 miles from Gulu.

It is believed the NRA will not advance on the West Nile region, separated from the rest of Uganda by the river Nile, until later.

However, they will not be able to claim complete control of the country until they have taken the West Nile region.

The situation in Kampala, the capital, was more normal yesterday than it had been for weeks, with large shipments of Ugandan coffee, the country's main export, flowing daily into neighbouring Kenya for shipment to world markets — earning large sums of money at the current high world market price.



Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister (left) and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, at the Herut convention yesterday. They are to swap positions in September.

# Rivals battle for Begin party

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The battle for control of the Herut party of Mr Menachem Begin is under way at its first national convention since 1979.

The former Prime Minister did not come out of his self-imposed political exile for the event and sent a message to say that his position as chairman was now vacant and that he hoped the party would emerge strengthened and united under the leadership of Mr Yitzhak Shamir.

That wish seems a pious hope. In the run-up to the convention, Mr Shamir has

been strongly challenged by hardline factions supporting Mr David Levy and Mr Ariel Sharon. Mr Shamir seems certain to be allowed to continue as party leader simply because he alone can benefit from the agreement with the Labour Party to become Prime Minister from next October.

But at this convention his two main challengers, along with Mr Moshe Arens, his leading supporter, are wheeling and dealing behind the scenes to take over key positions so that they can influ-

ence policy for the next general election in 1988.

Each challenger claims that he is the true heir to Mr Begin and each challenger is already complaining that his rivals have fiddled elections for convention delegates in order to secure a majority within the party.

The one thing certain is that, whoever wins, the party will continue to seek young supporters by insisting that Israel must hang on defiantly to all the territory it now occupies.

# Waldheim faced with fresh Nazi accusations

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

The Austrian weekly magazine *Profil*, which last week reported details of Dr Kurt Waldheim's alleged wartime membership of the Nazi Brownshirts (SA), yesterday published further documents detailing the former United Nations Secretary-General's alleged links with the Nazis.

These included the findings of a denazification commis-

sion responsible for vetting Dr Waldheim in 1946 to decide whether he was eligible to practise as a lawyer in postwar Austria.

Dr Waldheim has consistently denied ever having been a member of the SA or involvement in any wartime atrocities carried out in the Balkans by a unit he was attached to.

According to *Profil*, the denazification commission,

which investigated 13,000 cases in 1946, entered in its records that Dr Waldheim had been a member of an SA-riding squadron.

As the commission's inquiries had to be answered personally, the magazine said yesterday that it found it difficult to believe that Dr Waldheim did not know about his SA membership.

Meanwhile, in the wake of Dr Waldheim's emotional

weekend television interview here, a poll taken by the Fessel Institute found that his support among the electorate had increased dramatically to 42 per cent.

Of those polled, 87 per cent believed that the revelations of Dr Waldheim's past in *The New York Times* and *Profil* last week were the result of a campaign to prevent him being elected Austria's President in the May election.

# French elections: Part 2

# Why the voters keep their party choices secret

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The murder of a Socialist supporter, helping to put up party campaign posters, by a gang of extreme-right National Front poster stickers at the weekend was an eloquent reminder of why most French people prefer to keep their political affiliations to themselves.

Although they have a reputation as one of the most "politicized" nations in the world, and are always ready to engage in political argument, they are virtually never willing to reveal which party they support.

Asking a Frenchman which way he voted in the last election is like asking how much money he earns. It is a completely private affair. The secret is not even shared between man and wife.

That is why no one would ever dream of putting a "Vote Mitterrand" sticker on their car bumper, or an "I back Chirac" poster in their front window, as in Britain. "You would be asking to get your tyres slashed or a brick through your window," a shocked friend exclaimed.

Similarly, no party candidate would dream of going

round knocking on doors canvassing for votes. "That would be considered an *atteinte à la vie privée*", an invasion of individual privacy, a Gaullist candidate explained.

The most a voter normally receives in direct attempts to persuade him in favour of a party or candidate is a pamphlet outlining the party's progress, mailed to his home address. That is paid for by the state, provided the party won more than 5 per cent of the vote in the last general election.

Nearly all other campaign expenses are met by the individual parties or the candidates themselves. There is no limit to how much may be spent, but there are curiously few complaints about any party having an unfair advantage because of the superiority of its funds.

This could well have something to do with the fact that the most powerful weapon in a party's campaign arsenal — television time — cannot be bought.

In the past, political big-wigs seemed to beam down with a uniformly toothpaste-dent grin from virtually every street corner, though now the official campaign has begun posters are supposed to be limited to special official campaign boardings.

But in the country there is virtually nothing, whereas in Britain one would expect the party colours everywhere during an election campaign.

All elections are considered boring by those living through them, but the French electorate appears even more bored by this election than most in the past, despite the critical importance of its outcome.

That is in large part due to the fact that most of the French feel that they have been living through an election campaign not only for the past couple of months but for the past five years, ever since the Socialists managed to seize power for the first time in 27 years.

People complain that they have heard it all before. While they are disillusioned with the Socialists, they do not believe that the old right team will be able to do much better.

"They all sound the same nowadays, don't they?" the right-wing farmer-mayor of a little village in Seine et Marne grumbled. "They all lie, and they've got nothing new to tell us."

● Poll finale: Under French law, no polls may be published in the final week of the campaign. The last polls, published at the weekend, indicate support for the right-wing RPR-UDF alliance of between 42 per cent and 44 per cent of the vote, meaning an estimated 292 to 297 seats in the new assembly, only just enough to provide them with the overall majority they insist they need before they will be willing to form a government.

The Socialists are given 28 to 31 per cent, the Communists between 10 and 10.5 per cent, and the extreme-right National Front 6 to 8 per cent.

(Continued)

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FASHION II by Suzy Menkes

and sinful



Versace: (above left) geometric op-art pattern on a curvaceous couture-style dress in metal mesh  
Ferrer: (above right) gathering in the folds of a camel jersey tunic over slim skirt



Giorgio Armani: (above left) the full-skirted coat with cinched waist worn over wide soft trousers  
Krizia: plunging V-neck and sexy ruching to a skintight silver latex dress

LONDON FASHION PEOPLE

London Fashion Week opens on Thursday with great expectations and energetic input from the British Fashion Council. Two large tents and a room at the Chelsea Barracks will accommodate the international press and buyers, while the designers set up shop at Olympia.

In her capacity as president of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council and Save the Children, Princess Anne will attend a fund-raising fashion show next Sunday sponsored by heavy-weight export names such as Aquascutum, Anselm Reed and Jaeger. She will be able to pick up fashion tips from the show's stars who include Stephen Jones, Turkish-born Rita Ozbek and Princess Diana's current designer favourite, Victor Edelstein.

Haute couture is the new buzz term for British designers. Post-war Parisian boulevard chic is the inspiration for Jasper Conran's new collection to be shown on Saturday.

He is dreaming of the days when Dior ruled the hemlines. Balenciaga made waves, and the poodle was the most fashionable Paris accessory. Jasper says that his New Look comprises "a little white jacket tapered in at the waist", as well as the long and straight and short and tight. His de luxe cashmeres à la Chanel will be shown this season and there is a big (impact rather than size) evening story.

It has finally come to pass at Hartnell, as you have been reading on this page: the unlikely trinity of Sheridan Barnett, Victor Edelstein and Allan McRae, co-ordinated by the salon's directrice Marj Walters, unveils a joint ready-to-wear collection under the Hartnell label next Monday.

Meanwhile, a previous Hartnell candidate who turned his back on the silver salons, Bruce Oldfield, shows for the first time in London Fashion Week. Oldfield, with fellow

Princess of Wales designer Murray Arbeid, is taking over the grandly named Cadogan Hall at the Chelsea Barracks, rather than showing with the rest of the fashion circus in the tents.

So is Alistair Blair, who was also approached by Hartnell. He shows his first collection under his own label, backed by the entrepreneur Peter Bertelson, on Friday. Alistair, who worked with Karl Lagerfeld for two years, says we must all forgive him if his first collection seems to be influenced by the maestro. We will, Alistair, we will.

Hyper-Hyper, London's outrageous fashion supermarket, is guaranteed to see itself in print. The Hype, its own publication, is to be launched hours after The Hype show on the second day of British Fashion Week.

Packed with moody photographs, the first issue previews next season's fashion ideas from the Kensington High

Street emporium. It includes a mail order section for readers outside London. There is an interview with the designer Rachel Asburn; Susan Backhouse talks about the trip to Africa which inspired the prints for her new collection.

The magazine will be on sale from March 14 at Virgin Record stores and branches of WH Smith.

Safety pins and bondage straps will attempt a comeback next week in John Crancher's London show, titled predictably "The Anarchists". Also attempting a comeback with as many safety pins (but minus the tooth-brace) is the 1970s punk idol Poly Styrene, who will make a guest appearance at Crancher's show. She has been to India, joined the Krishna movement, and returns to London to belt out a couple of numbers for old-punks' sake.

Rebecca Tyrrel

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# Game for almost anything

TV game shows are moving into the front line of the ratings war, reports Michael Watts

An independent television producer is in his London office near Bond Street explaining an idea for a game show called *Countdown*. "You tip out the dustbin, and people have to guess whose dustbin it is. If bottles fall out, you know it's Dean Martin." Jeremy Fox, game show impresario, laughs and says: "Tip mine out and they'd find TV formats".



If a game takes five minutes to explain it will be boring

Game shows, which embrace the "family entertainment" of *The Generation Game* and quizzes like *Family Fortunes*, are as old as television itself, and growing with the same rapidity. They are without doubt more numerous and popular than in the heyday, during the 1950s and early 1960s, of *Take Your Pick*, *Double Your Money*, *Opportunity Knocks* and *What's My Line?*, a so-called "golden age" when television promised less.

Now competition is much fiercer. Though less publicized than soap operas, game shows are an equally valuable tool in the hands of programme-schedulers, manoeuvring for good ratings. Their producers are "front-line combat troops", says Alan Boyd, London Weekend Television's controller of entertainment. His successes, at the crucial peak-time of early Saturday evening, have included *Game For A Laugh* and *Blind Date*. "You have to deliver 16 programmes in a row, and win with them", he notes grimly. "You have about three to succeed".

Television companies are consequently spending more money to ensure popularity. Top game shows



Come on down: Leslie Crowther's show, at first thought too brash, soon topped the ratings

are glossy and expensive. Their makers recognize that they are still more economic in attracting viewers than most other forms of television.

Take Central Television, which likes "reward" games with prizes. It probably makes *The Price Is Right* for a total of £70,000 a show, at the rate of one a day over five weeks; but the show is regularly watched by 12 million viewers, and has 70,000 possible contestants awaiting its next series. Central's *Blockbusters*, for young contestants, is shown in some regions every evening but one, an innovation that like the BBC's *Mastermind* and Channel 4's *Countdown*, it has borrowed from the American practice of "stripping" programmes across the week's viewing.

The day excepted is Sunday, when Central networks *Bullseye*, recently the country's highest-rated quiz with 13½ million viewers. *Bullseye*'s gimmick is throwing darts. *Countdown*, more modern, projects computer graphics on to a large screen. *Game For A Laugh* thrives on embarrassing contestants with silly stunts. *Mastermind* turns viewers into voyeurs at an inquisi-

tion. *Family Fortunes* was based on opinion polls. *Blind Date*, with Cilla Black match-making young couples, is a "people" game show, quite different from *The Price Is Right*, a "game" show.

Simple catchphrases can contribute to success. *The Golden Shot*, a popular 1970s show produced by Midlands ATV, had contestants firing a crossbow, but what one remembers is the host's ritual request of his assistant, "Bernie, the bolt, please!" Now *The Price Is Right* boasts that half the car dealers in the Midlands have appropriated for their sales-pitch "Come on down!", the command with which Leslie Crowther summons lucky members of the audience to play.

One definition of a game show is that audiences participate both on-screen and at home. Fox makes a further distinction: "Game shows you stand up, quiz shows you sit down." He and colleagues like Jeremy Beadle, host of *Game For A Laugh*, test new quiz formats, up to 200 a year, in his office equipped with scoreboard, buzzers and bells. His rule is that if a game takes five minutes to explain, it will be boring.

Game-show hosts should ideally enjoy and understand the game and its logic. They must think on their feet and empathize with ordinary people, especially losers. "I try and give contestants simple lessons in body language", Beadle explains. "I remind them, 'teeth and eyes', which means, 'smile and sparkle' in television circles. Bob Monkhouse, former host of *Family Fortunes*, is widely considered to have the logic." *Your Game, Right?*, exudes more personal warmth.

The elements that make games successful can provoke a burst of philosophy from Anthony Gruner, British agent for the American game-show giants, Goodson-Todman. "A good game show is like a three-act play", he says. "A quiz might be considered a one-act play constantly repeated. The studio audience is the Greek chorus; and, obviously, the game must have its end, that dramatic moment."

The prizes are paltry compared with the fortunes dispensed by American shows, and, incidentally, British newspaper competitions. The BBC, ever-conscious of the

licence-payers' money, occasionally stumps up for a colour TV. The (BA) strict guidelines allow prizes worth up to an average £4,000 a show, with a normal top prize of £1,750.

William G Stewart, genial producer of *The Price Is Right*, whose prize-money sometimes totals £6,000, claims that taking part in the show, and having a memento of the occasion, is more important to audience and contestants than winning money. His show, which turns its cameras on audiences and milks their excitement, was for years thought too uninhibited for a format for British television. But within three weeks it had topped the ratings. Stewart, a former *Bullfinch* redcoat ("I genuinely like ordinary people"), talks to the audience for 40 minutes before each show and notes likely contestants. Then they are galvanized by a tape of *Land of Hope and Glory*. "The British working-class is a patriotic bunch of people", he ruminates.

Yet most British game shows are actually imported, generally from America, and often given different names. *The Price Is Right*, which began on NBC in 1957, is a Goodson-Todman concept; like *What's My Line?*, a veteran 36 lately revived by Thames, and *Blankety Blank*, aged 24, which in America was called *Match Game* and played for \$10,000. *The Generation Game* was originally Dutch, 3-2-1 Spanish.



Taking part in the show is more important than winning it

and *Ultra Quiz*: Japanese. *Treasure Hunt* was discovered in France by the small, independent Chatsworth Television, whose other show, *Bullseye*, is one of the few big names devised in Britain.

British television cannot support a game-show industry comparable with America's, but neither are there million-dollar prizes, girls in wet T-shirts, or cruel trials of physical endurance of the kind favoured in Japan. Alan Boyd does not expect these developments here, yet he cannot be certain of the effect upon standards of direct broadcast by satellite.

Guarding against that day, new, original shows are being planned. London Weekend is working on an "inter-active" game with which viewers can play along at home; Chatsworth and the BBC are developing a concept based on video arcade games; and David Frost has just bought the TV rights to the Canadian board-game, *Rival Pursuits*, for televising early next year.

Jeremy Fox has one, too: an "anti-game show" called *You Just Can't Win*. "Whatever happens, you cannot win", he says happily. Jeremy, come on down!

Ivor Davis

## A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS

The game show is one of the most durable commodities on United States television. Today there are more than 21 such shows flourishing on the airwaves, although more than 90 per cent of them are aired either in the early morning or early evening. In a handful of US cities the shows are aired in what is called prize time — usually after 7.30 in the evening, when most TV viewers are parked in front of their sets.

The era of the big-money game shows began in the US in 1955 with *The \$64,000 Question*, which enabled contestants to win big money by answering complex questions. It be-

came an overnight sensation, spawning many imitators, but three years later the game show bubble burst. Several contestants charged that popular quiz shows watched by millions were rigged. The ensuing scandal shook the TV industry and forced the networks to kill off the shows.

They were resurrected in 1961 and since then, like chat shows, afternoon soap operas and night-time news programmes, have become a regular part of the American television fabric. "It's a multi-million dollar industry today", says Arnold Gordon, a marketing specialist who runs workshops for Los Angeles colleges for

aspiring game show contestants. "It's a booming market. A new show started recently called *Chance of a Lifetime* where contestants can win \$1 million. It's big money and those are the shows that draw."

Game shows have always been considered quick and cheap forms of entertainment, says Michael Brockman, vice-president of daytime programming for the CBS network. "It costs around \$100,000 to put on a show and efficient producers can shoot five programmes — or a week's worth of shows — in one day. Afternoon soaps cost twice or three times as much and you can only tape one half-

hour segment a day. So it boils down to economics." Yet despite the growing popularity of this kind of fare, Bruce Noah, a Hollywood game show producer, complains that television moguls still sneer when he suggests airing the quiz shows during peak viewing hours. "Here network people call them 'greed' shows and claim they pay for the lowest common denominator. They say the shows will turn off right-time viewers. I don't know what those executives are working on. If it's a series like *Hill Street Blues*, I take off my hat to them. But most of the stuff I see is incredible junk."

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## A hard act to follow

The Irish actor Alan Devlin is his country's leading exponent of the walk-off part. His career reached its zenith last year when he strode from the boards of Dublin's Gaiety Theatre in the middle of *HMS Pinafore*. Nounced in admirals' regalia up the auditorium and installed himself in the pub across the road. A few minutes later he was trying to borrow £15 from the orchestra leader to finance the next few rounds.

Despite long hours of self-examination Devlin — who last night was intending to appear in a new play at the Soho Poly in London\* — is still not quite clear why he does this sort of thing. In 1983 he went *Awol* from *O'Neill's A Moon for the Misbegotten* at the Riverside, and by the time his director tracked him down he was back across the water in the republic. (In spite of this he managed to pick up a Society of West End Theatres award for his performance.) The previous year he had sprung himself from a production of the aptly named *Ducking Out* at the Duke of York's, muttering some audible obscenities from the stage, and gravitating to the nearest watering hole. His immediate reward was a careful from the star of the show, Warren Mitchell.

After each of these episodes Devlin descended into an abyss of self-reproach and the blackest of contrition. On the face of it, the man is a victim of his own cycle of self-indulgence. But if you talk to any actor, you discover that beneath the impulses of professional jealousy lurks the desire to inflict that grand gesture against the imprisonment of a small part in a long run. The difference is that while others dream of it, Devlin does it, in the point that his appeal to audiences is now partly that of a suicide on a parapet. Once more, he reckons — just once — and he

With his habit of quitting the stage at short notice, Alan Devlin brings high drama to his humblest roles



Devlin: he has his exits

will probably never work again. As if courting that disaster, his latest role is that of a drunken Irish building worker going on his ritual pay-day binge. "I think it's very brave of him to do it", says the author, Shane Connaughton. Must, including Devlin himself, would say that the bravery resides elsewhere. "I was once told, years ago when I was in rep in Killarney, that you can make one mistake in your career. Well, I never really believed it... Why do I do it, you ask. On a serious note I did it because... well, the world and his wife know why I did it. I did it because I was drunk. There's no use in saying anything else. That's the fact of the matter. There's no point whatsoever in the press office saying I had an carache... It was a mistake for me to do the *Ducking Out* part after it transferred from Greenwich. I

was only on for 10 or 15 minutes right at the end. That sounds grandiose, I know, as though I wouldn't do small parts. It's not that. But when we finished at Greenwich I should have gone home. Today Devlin has a costly looking midriff and a lived-in face that makes it difficult to accept that he has still not turned 40. He remains baffled and intrigued by his own behaviour.

"When I see this kind of thing in other people, or in movies, or some fictional situation, I suppose I think it's grand and it's fun, like someone running out of a rugby match. But people do have money invested in these things, and they put in a hell of a lot of work. "Just after the *Pinafore* business I was in a bar, and people were reading about it in the Sunday papers. Retired folks, officers, people like that. And I'd been thinking to myself 'Oh my God, Alan, what have you done? What have you done?' And there was the horror and the blackness of it all, and I heard these characters down at the end say 'Surely to God he'll never work again. Jesus, will you look at the state of him. It says here he's a man of 38, but he looks more like 50 or even 60', and then I left the pub and I said to myself, 'Something'd better be done'.

A pause, more Beckett than Pinter, and then: "No, I won't do it again. And I know that I won't do it again because I have decided not to. With the same conviction and deep belief that I suspect I can't fly. If I behave for the rest of my career... well, I might get my credibility back in a couple of years. Oh yes, and I've also made the resolve not to drink before I go on stage."

Alan Franks  
\* I Do Like to Be in playing at the Soho Poly Theatre, 16 Riding House Street, London W1.

## The home fires burn again

Welsh nationalists are once more attacking holiday homes — a campaign police fear could soon prove fatal

The bombers are back in Wales, and senior police officers fear that it is only a matter of time before someone is killed. After a lull, allegedly for political reasons, to their demands, arsonists are again attacking holiday homes — a campaign police fear could soon prove fatal.

In the industrial south, people who are apparently even more ruthless and with different motives have resurrected their campaign against the "foreign invaders". Since the campaign started in 1979, almost 100 homes have been attacked. In the past three months, eight homes in the north-west and west have been destroyed, and in Cardiff a bomb has been planted outside the National Coal Board.

"Come home to a real fire" is a caption which has amused more than one cartoonist, but for a family standing in the embers of their modest country retreat, the joke falls flat. Perhaps for the first time they realize that some regard them not merely as outsiders but plunderers of a language and culture of which they have no comprehension.

Three organizations, *Mudiad Amddiffyn Cymru*, or MAC (the Movement to Defend Wales), *Cadwyr Cymru* (the Keepers of Wales), and *Methibon Glynafwr* (the Sons of Gwendolyn) have boasted about fires in the rural areas. They are motivated primarily by cultural fanaticism, fuelled by such historical injustices as the Welsh Not — the board of shame which children caught speaking the language were made to wear. The bombers in the south are different and their name, Workers Army of the Welsh Republic, hints at their Marxist philosophy.

MAC has been around the longest. Two of its members died when they tried to attack the train carrying the Prince of Wales to his investiture at Caernarvon Castle in 1969. Police are worried about the new sophistication of the attacks. In the three latest incidents, devices were set to go off after the emergency services arrived. One of the devices exploded, sending a fireball across a room. The bomb disposal officer examining it was saved by his protective clothing.

There have been persistent rumours of links between the Welsh terrorists and organizations such as the IRA, the Basque separatists, and the Provisional IRA. It is understood, however, that the IRA declined to offer any assistance as they feared "security leaks". Special Branch officers keep a constant watch on the ferry ports of Holyhead and Fishguard and liaise closely with Irish colleagues. In the latest anonymous communication from *Methibon Glynafwr*, the arsonists threatened to extend their scope to "all possessions of English managers". This poses new problems for there are thousands of English-owned yachts and caravans in Wales. The Welsh campaign stems essentially from the way in which Welsh society has changed over the past two decades. Increased wealth, better roads and rural depopulation have dramatically altered communities. Villages such as Aberdaron on the Lleyn peninsula, once almost wholly Welsh-speaking, have become Anglicized. Most of the houses are holiday homes, and in winter the villages are almost deserted. More and more, the indigenous Welsh have been pushed back into the hinterland. English people from areas like Birmingham have displayed more business acumen than the native Welsh. They have bought cafes, shops and bed-and-breakfast houses, becoming entrenched along the north and west Wales coast.

The activities of the extremists have caused acute embarrassment to Gwynedd county council, whose area contains an estimated 12,000 holiday homes. The council has been campaigning for power to control the number of second homes because it believes that they destroy traditional communities and push up house prices.

So far, its efforts to achieve legislation to enable it to impose conditions upon the sale of homes have elicited a negative response from the Welsh Office. Many English victims of arson have pointed out that the houses they bought were rotting away, unwanted by local people. The bombing and arson campaign has been condemned by Mr Dafydd Iwan, president of *Plaid Cymru*, which has appealed to the extremists to stop. His charge that the Government is partly to blame for the attacks because of its refusal to recognize the second home problem has been rejected by Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales.

Even the militant Welsh Language Society, which is not adverse to direct action in pursuit of its aims has dissociated itself from the extremists, saying their methods endanger lives. Detective Superintendent Gareth Jones of the North Wales police said: "These people can only be described as ruthless and dangerous individuals with no consideration for the possible consequences of their actions".

Tim Jones

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 896

ACROSS

- 1 Work a voider (6)
- 5 Spiked club (4)
- 8 Raised strip (5)
- 9 Foolish (7)
- 11 Course woman (8)
- 13 Locality (4)
- 15 Housenot thought (7, 6)
- 17 Simple (4)
- 18 Western Isles (8)
- 21 Wheel heavily (7)
- 22 George Formby instrument (5)
- 23 Remain (4)
- 24 Sore (6)

DOWN

- 2 Prestige (5)
- 3 Compete (3)
- 4 Added support (13)
- 6 Methine (4)
- 6 Food provider (7)
- 7 Skilled (10)
- 10 1920's kicking dance (10)
- 12 Rouse (4)
- 14 Young salmon (4)
- 16 Violent attack (7)
- 19 Slow learner (5)
- 20 Tease (4)
- 22 Currant roll (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 895

ACROSS: 1 Add up, 4 Slogger, 5 Small, 9 Luggage, 10 Inertial, 11 Ghee, 13 Renaissance, 17 Foll, 18 Arterial, 21 Raviolet, 22 Elbow, 23 Linolet, 24 Sheer

DOWN: 1 Absent, 2 Drap, 3 Palatial, 4 Self-assertion, 5 Orgy, 6 Graphic, 7 Reeper, 12 Nameless, 14 Entiven, 15 Spiral, 16 Flower, 19 Imbue, 20 Foll

### CONFERENCE GUERNSEY

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THE ARTS

Television  
Faith in things to come

A hot-air balloon is a dangerous symbol to inflate at a political rally, but of course the French have a different sense of humour and to them it was no doubt as inspiring as singing the "Marseillaise" and shouting Vive la France! with M. Mitterrand or M. Chirac, depending on political affiliation. *Panorama* (BBC1) contained many glimpses of French vote-catching techniques.

In pursuing the issues of unemployment (2.4 million), industrial regeneration, the socialist's record and the emergence of a racist far right, the programme also offered a picture of a country enjoying an enviable level of overall prosperity and adopting a positive view of a promising future. It was hard not to make a mental comparison between a French miner's family, one year after redundancy, and the British families filmed during the miners' strike. The French seemed in every way better off, prospering in a new business started with a government grant and determined to share their fortune with the less blessed.

A quirk of scheduling has brought two programmes on life after divorce to Monday evening. On BBC1 there is the British view of the situation, *Dear John*, which stars Ralph Bates as a newly-single teacher attending a therapy group for the "divorced and desperate".

The general level of enlightenment of this work is so low as to extinguish hope for the future of the human race. Our hero meets no women socially, despite his profession, and spends lonely evenings in a bed-sit fantasizing about an old girlfriend who nicknamed him *Action Man*, for reasons which seem unlikely.

Over on Channel 4, the American variation on the theme is *Kate and Allie*, a series about two divorced women and their children sharing a home in some neighbourhood of a ticky-tacky New York suburb. Oddly for an American series, this appears to contain no jokes of any kind, even when classic cues litter the script.

Perhaps there is no longer anything amusing about divorce — or perhaps there is now a generation of screenwriters who are sufficiently well acquainted with the subject to have sustained irreversible sense-of-humour failure. It would be good to see divorce joining flat-sharing on an official black list of situation-comedy concepts.

Celia Brayfield



Boccioni's *Unique forms of continuity in space* (right) from *Art and Time* at the Barbican, sculpture of a walking man clearly deriving from the revelations of stop-motion photography; and potent nostalgia in the intense vision of Roger Mayne in *Southam Street*, North Kensington (1956) at the Victoria and Albert Museum

Galleries

Weird ways to control the fourth dimension

Art and Time Barbican

New Vision 56-66 Warwick Arts Trust

Roger Mayne Victoria and Albert Museum

One of the great advantages of the non-dramatic visual arts, for the spectator at least, is that they do not tie you down to anyone else's time-sense; you can spend five seconds, or five minutes, or five hours in front of a painting, entirely according to your own taste and interest. This is not, of course, necessarily seen as an advantage by the artists.

Many long to control the time dimension as well as the other three, if only so that they can test the widespread, but almost certainly mistaken belief that, if someone fails to appreciate a painting or sculpture in five minutes, he would surely see new profundities in it at the end of five hours. But, apart from that, clearly the artistic rendering of time, movement in time, the passage and effect of time, is for some artists an abiding challenge — one which, in the 20th century particularly, has provoked all kinds of weird and wonderful responses.

These attempts to render four dimensions in three or two are the central theme of a fascinating show at the Barbican Art Gallery until April 27. *Art and Time*, its chronicle of 20th-century artists' struggles to escape what the catalogue rather tendentiously calls "the ghetto of timelessness" begins, in effect, with the beginnings of cinema in the photography of Muybridge and Marey. Their work towards analyzing motion more accurately than

ever before was largely scientific in intent, and in any case relied on the timelessness of the individual image to freeze the stages in a continuous process rather than deliberately trying to re-create for aesthetic effect something which existed and could be observed quite satisfactorily in its own sphere. Nevertheless, stop-motion photography did undoubtedly reveal a whole world of hidden images — hidden because they were too transitory for the naked eye to catch — and these, duly fed into the universal image-bank, inspired artists to some rather remarkable new effects.

The first visual coup of this exhibition is to show three Degas bronzes of a dancer together in such a way that they seem to depict different stages of a continuous movement. We do not know whether Degas ever imagined them shown in this combination, but the point is well taken: one by one they may be frozen music, but together they at once introduce the dimension of time.

More consciously, the Italian Futurists saw speed and motion as the specifically modern elements of life, and therefore of art, and pieces like Balla's famous paintings of a dog walking and a violinist playing (neither, unfortunately, available for showing here) and Boccioni's sculpture of a walking man, *Unique forms of continuity in space* (1913), which is on show and is also the subject of a new booklet in the Tate Modern Masterpieces series (£2.95), clearly derive from the revelations of stop-motion photography. The Surrealists also found endless fascination in the subject of time — often, it seems, from the very incongruity of trying to reflect it in a form which was by definition timeless. It is one of the show's bonuses that we are able to see major, unfamiliar paintings by Dalí, Magritte (including a rare early

abstract) and other key figures of the movement.

It is at about this point in the show that doubts begin to set in, however. The excitement and interior dynamism of art frequently come from the artist's struggles to do the impossible, the collision of the irresistible force with the immovable object. It seems to me that there is a very perceptible decline in interest when we move on from attempts to render time in timelessness — the Grecian Urn effect, as it were — and come instead upon the newer forms like mobiles and kinetic art and then on to video and performance art, which build in the dimension of time quite literally.

However, when the artists are not trying to chain us in the ghetto of their own time-sense, sitting in front of a machine or a television screen while it completes its ordained cycle, there is much in this show to please and absorb. It is necessary to see even the most tiresome video upstairs — if not all through — in order to find out just what the fault of artistic logic (or artistic economics) is. The theme, in other words, is more important than the individual exhibits, and this remains, encouragingly, one of the very few current shows which not only inform but make us re-examine many of our normal assumptions and enjoy the exercise.

Time and re-examination also feature, though rather differently, in an odd little show, *New Vision 56-66*, at the Warwick Arts Trust in Pimlico until March 23. The "new vision" in question was that propounded by the New Vision Centre Gallery, one of the livelier independent selling galleries in London from 1956 to 1966, and one of the very few, perhaps the only, devoted exclusively to abstract art at the time. The paintings on show nearly all come from the collection of the



gallery's co-founder and director (and himself a painter), Denis Bowen, and were all originally shown at the gallery, or at least as contemporary work by gallery artists. There are a few new, or still, famous names, one may note Gillian Ayres, Michael Rothenstein, Karl Weschke, Paul Feiler and, rather improbably, Peter Blake, going through a brief and quickly forgotten abstract phase (the painting, incidentally, is a beauty). There are also some notable foreigners, including Heinz Mack, with a very early minimalist painting, and Robert Goodnough, a minor but well-reputed New York Abstract Impressionist.

The big question, inevitably, is how does it all look now? In the whirligig of fashion the 20/30-year gap is probably the most difficult to negotiate comfortably, and as it happens I saw the show with a painter friend now in his early thirties, who found it all terribly dated and depressing. I, on the other hand, enjoyed it, not only as a nostalgic trip to the kind of thing which was "modern art" when I was a student in London, but also on its own merits: this kind of free-form, lyrical or tachiste abstraction is just beginning to look good again. Not all of it, naturally — some are more talented than others — but well

worth another look and another think.

There is more potent nostalgia, and something else in addition, in the retrospective show of photographs by Roger Mayne at the Victoria and Albert until May 31. It covers his whole career from the first steps, under the influence of Cartier-Bresson and the abstractions of the St Ives school of painters, right through to his intensely poetic work for the *Shell Guide to Devon*, a collaboration with his wife Ann Jellicoe, and beyond (though not including, unfortunately, any of the exquisite colour work in his ICA show of 1978).

But the main weight is laid on his photo-journalism of the Fifties and Sixties, especially the street scenes he shot in Southam Street, North Kensington, over the years 1956-61. These last do constitute an unique document, and recall another aspect of the period in which the New Vision Centre flourished, this time with an intensity too great to call nostalgic. But surely announcing, as the catalogue categorically does, that this is Mayne's "great period" does severely underestimate the variety and staying-power of one of the best photographers working in Britain today.

John Russell Taylor

Theatre  
A cloth worth cutting

The Clerical Outfitters Duke's Playhouse, Lancaster

However distant a goal for the church at large, the ecclesiastical movement is already thriving in the field of ecclesiastical vestments. No doubt there are shops in Belfast where the Revd Ian Paisley could find himself stripped to his braces sharing a mirror with a cardinal; or mainland establishments where rabbis queue up behind Bradford mullahs.

Such is the inspired setting of Elizabeth Bond's play, which follows an eventful week's trading in the non-sectarian premises of a Lancashire clerical outfitters. The set (by Alice Purcell) is a functional combination of shop-floor and office with a basement for storing communion wine and brewing tea. What makes it extraordinary is the merchandise: three vast racks of glowing ecclesiastical finery which communicate a sense of backstage glamour and have the effect of converting costume into décor.

This is the domain of the hard-pressed Mr Ferris (Ian Blower) and his eager young assistant Geoffrey (Stefan Escree). Barely are the blinds raised on the monastic windows than the first rabbi is in — returning 500 school blazers whose buttons have unfortunately been attached in stitching that forms a cross. He is followed by a Monsignor who has to refer every sartorial decision to a battlereuse bousekeeper, and a preening Anglican who gives young Geoffrey a hard time while his employer is out delivering the restitched blazers.

It ought to be great fun. Miss Bond knows all about such garments, and the respective qualities of cotton and polyester cassocks. Her clerics are sharply characterized and full of surprises, as with the appearance of a rugged boy with climbing boots swinging from his rucksack whom Ferris obscuroly addresses as "Father".

The comedy, however, does not get a free run. For one thing, Miss Bond is slow to establish the main situation: that the bones of a seventh-century saint have been discovered in a Muslim community centre, and that all the frantic clerical dressing-up is in preparation for a grand competitive procession to lay the relics to rest.

More damagingly, she also wants to draw a contrast between faith and the organized church; and instead of expressing this through comic incident she abruptly switches the laughs off when she has something serious to say — as when the archdeacon and poor herpetologist Monsignor Byrne (Jon Strickland) dress up for a sectarian ding-dong or where Geoffrey is finally left searching for his own soul in the saint's dust. Given its rich potential and performances, such as Mr Blower's dyspeptic proprietor, which break through Jonathan Petherbridge's under-energized production, there should be a future for a tightened-up version of the play.

Irving Wardle

Jackie Marks is to take over the role of Fantine from Patti LuPone at the end of her contract in the musical *Les Misérables* at the Palace Theatre on March 31. The show, currently playing to capacity business, will open in America in the autumn, while next year it is already scheduled for Oslo and Tokyo, with several other countries subject to negotiation.

The American pianist Earl Wild (right) returns to London next week to mark the centenary of Liszt's death with three recitals of the music he loves with such vigour and passion: interview by Brian Masters



Missionary fervour still unabated

It is slightly worrying that the veteran American pianist Earl Wild is not better known in this country, for it suggests we are slow to recognize the importance of the Romantic revival which he, more than anyone, has promoted with such vigour and passion. Thirty and forty years ago, when most of the work of Liszt was considered cheap and exhibitionist, Wild was playing some of the more flamboyantly dramatic pieces with a respect for the heroic style which seemed dangerously old-fashioned in a solemn, clinical age.

Now, at 70, his missionary fervour has not abated. He still gets angry when the music of Liszt is denigrated by people who simply do not understand it, and he is marking the centenary of the composer's death next week with three recitals at the Wigmore Hall designed to demonstrate the extraordinary inventiveness, lyricism and imaginative scope of Liszt's vision. They include pieces rarely heard, some of diabolical complexity, and one which has never been performed in London at all. "Young pianists nowadays are bappy with the Bach and the Beethoven, but when I learnt," says Wild, "but when it comes to the imaginative music of Liszt they have no frame of reference. They are lost. There is a disturbing lack of poetry in the young generation which makes them incapable of appreciating what Liszt did for music. We are only just emerging now from a terribly arid and ignorant period. Cheeky iconoclast

has always marked the pronouncements of Wild, who enjoys deflating pomposity; to appreciate minimalism in music, he says, you must have a minimal mind.

Wild can trace his musical ancestry through his teacher Janssen to the pianist and composer d'Albert, a contemporary of Liszt, and through another teacher, Egon Petri, to Busoni, but he would not claim this kind of inheritance necessarily carries with it echoes of Liszt's own playing. It does mean, however, that he shares with them a 19th-century attitude towards the piano which is unashamedly passionate. An audience at a concert by Wild is soon made aware that he wants the piano to move, astonish and delight, not merely earn intellectual approval. With one of the most virtuosic techniques in the world, he cannot help but astonish, but it is Wild's unexpected control of each lyrical nuance that makes an audience almost afraid to breathe for fear of missing something.

He does not throw himself about or make grimaces in the music-hall tradition of so-called "Romantic" playing, but directs all his energy into his fingers. He is not in favour of pianists being gawped at, and thinks a recital for the blind should be able to produce as much enjoyment as a more conventional concert. The lyrical power of the music is its own flamboyance; it speaks for itself.

Wild learnt his craft before the days of competitions. The son of a non-musical family

(father in the Pittsburgh Steel Corporation, mother designing hats), he began playing at the age of four, and gave his first public performance nearly sixty years ago.

His career since then has been highly eclectic and has included playing pop music, Gershwin with Toscanini, the very first television recital, virtually all of Gilbert and Sullivan, Kennedy's inaugural celebrations and playing the National Anthem before Mrs Roosevelt's speeches. He sees nothing to lament in all this. The youngsters who go straight from competition to recording lack that breadth of experience which demands finding the best in all music. "It is easy to learn by memory, but difficult to play a piece as if you knew it and can place the composer's energy in it."

The pianist Wild has most admired in his own time are Rachmaninov and Moritz Rosenthal, with a special place for Horowitz, "because he made the most out of everything and wasn't afraid to be outrageous — very Lisztian". His own fearlessness has brought him extravagant acclaim and carping scoffs. At his previous concert here, in 1982, a London critic went so far as to say he gave "one of the most stunning piano recitals in the entire history of the Wigmore Hall".

With Liszt the Poet, Liszt the Transcriber and Liszt the Virtuoso, on March 19, 22 and 26, we shall have a chance to see if he was right and whether Wild is truly one of the last epic poets of the keyboard.

Philharmonia/Giulini Festival Hall/Radio 3

It looked like intelligent programming on Sunday night for the Philharmonia to pair Franck's *Symphony* with Fauré's *Requiem*. The two works emerged at almost the same time in the same place, and they ought to have made a neat contrast of the raging with the restful. But any such contrast was worn away by the irresistible smoothening of

ECO/Uchida Elizabeth Hall

Mitsuko Uchida began the second five programmes of her Mozart piano concerto series with the English Chamber Orchestra on Sunday night with one, I was delighted to note, that had never ever come my way in concert performance before. The C major Concerto, K415, the third of the three Mozart wrote soon after he settled in Vienna, is chiefly distinguished neither by its first nor second movements, but by a finale which is among the most original inventions of even that fertile mind.

The performance was strong in the pianist's dramatic but never exaggerated pointing of each new and often surprising change of musical direction, although her bodily movements in conducting when she was not engaged in playing, with her back squarely to the audience, looked overdone in relation to the orchestra's need. Their rapport was so adept when there was no chance for her to give cues anyway that she could economise her energies with less visible distraction.

It was nevertheless an alternately absorbing and exhilarating performance, even to the sudden gleam of claws while pussyfooting through

Carlo Maria Giulini's adagios, and by his restraint.

The opening of the Franck was so slow that the orchestra could have been playing something else at the same time. Admittedly there were beauties one might have missed on a quicker ride, like the first wind chord, fresh as spring, or the many shapely, long-drawn-out diminuendos in the strings. Yet one loses all sense of necessary movement when the music is laid out with this sort of aloof care. Mr Giulini seemed to be treating Franck as if he were a cousin of Bruckner, which only em-

phasizes his weak points: the stop-start structures and the square, short themes. There was a desperate need for some vulgarity. I suspect the cure would have had to be different for the Fauré, but here too the sedate tempos, and still more so the low dynamic level, muffled all meaning. The music was too often reduced to quiet church harmony supporting a concert of coughs and bleeps: it was a bit like waiting in a crematorium for the departed to arrive.

As in the Franck, there were some incidental benefits. The Philharmonia Chorus, in particular, need to be congratulated for producing such extreme pianissimos, giving a not inappropriate impression, sometimes, of voices heard from a long way off. There were also some fine sounds from the full lower strings of the reduced orchestra, though they would have been still finer had there been the impetus to carry them forward into phrases. Kathleen Battle in the "Pie Jesu" was not helped by the tempo, but Andreas Schmidt sang quite unworriedly, and nicely without pretension.

Paul Griffiths

He made us see Webern's Five Early Songs very much, as it were, from the other end of the same telescope as Strauss's Four Lasts: as terse musical transcriptions of the expansive sensuousness of the Romantic poetry they set. With Ian Brown's closely concentrated piano accompaniments, "Sommerabend" was a most beautifully controlled exercise in restrained ecstasy. "Der Tod" a forceful epigram of verbal and harmonic onomatopoeia. But if these performances epitomized the best of the series — that fusion of relaxed entertainment and intellectual stimulus for which Nash concerts are renowned — then the rest of the evening exemplified their increasing tendency to polarization. A regrettable habit seems to have developed of concentrating all the evening's energy and discipline into the rarer ensemble work, and merely coasting home with the repertory piece.

Concerts

Desperate need for a bit of vulgarity

Carlo Maria Giulini's adagios, and by his restraint.

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phasizes his weak points: the stop-start structures and the square, short themes. There was a desperate need for some vulgarity.

I suspect the cure would have had to be different for the Fauré, but here too the sedate tempos, and still more so the low dynamic level, muffled all meaning. The music was too often reduced to quiet church harmony supporting a concert of coughs and bleeps: it was a bit like waiting in a crematorium for the departed to arrive.

As in the Franck, there were some incidental benefits. The Philharmonia Chorus, in particular, need to be congratulated for producing such extreme pianissimos, giving a not inappropriate impression, sometimes, of voices heard from a long way off. There were also some fine sounds from the full lower strings of the reduced orchestra, though they would have been still finer had there been the impetus to carry them forward into phrases. Kathleen Battle in the "Pie Jesu" was not helped by the tempo, but Andreas Schmidt sang quite unworriedly, and nicely without pretension.

Paul Griffiths

He made us see Webern's Five Early Songs very much, as it were, from the other end of the same telescope as Strauss's Four Lasts: as terse musical transcriptions of the expansive sensuousness of the Romantic poetry they set. With Ian Brown's closely concentrated piano accompaniments, "Sommerabend" was a most beautifully controlled exercise in restrained ecstasy. "Der Tod" a forceful epigram of verbal and harmonic onomatopoeia. But if these performances epitomized the best of the series — that fusion of relaxed entertainment and intellectual stimulus for which Nash concerts are renowned — then the rest of the evening exemplified their increasing tendency to polarization. A regrettable habit seems to have developed of concentrating all the evening's energy and discipline into the rarer ensemble work, and merely coasting home with the repertory piece.

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for all its relentlessly somnolent, drooping harmonies and sinking cadences, was given an alert and sharply detailed reading. Michael Collins lifted the clarinet part from its dense camouflage to brighten the delicately fluctuating close textures of the string writing. Schubert's "Trout", however, failed to bite. This was a drab and complacent performance of the Quintet, giving the impression that, by token of its very familiarity, the work and indeed its audience deserved no more than a competently musicianly read-through.

Hilary Finch

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THE TIMES DIARY

All part of the service

British Rail consultant William Camp earned his money yesterday when he dragged a would-be suicide case from the path of an approaching train at Euston. Camp, former adviser to Harold Wilson, was en route to meet me for lunch at the Garrick Club when he spotted the man sitting on the track. Although hearing "that horrible rumbling of an oncoming train in the tunnel", he threw himself on to the track and dragged the man to safety. Camp said: "We just spotted him sitting on the line rubbing the rails with his hands eccentrically. He was very deep in thought. If he had been on the next line we would all have gone up in a puff of blue smoke. We were lucky..."

Figurehead

The junior common room at St Hugh's, Oxford, has voted to exclude strangers from its meetings - effectively banning the father of maths prodigy, Ruth Lawrence. Subjected to right-wing harangues from the infant phenomenon, undergraduates who originally invited Harry Lawrence have since tired of his whispered prompts and head-shaking. "I didn't attempt to be invisible, but they didn't need to pass a motion. They could just have asked me to stay clear," he says. Meanwhile, only three JCR meetings remain before Ruth aged 14, graduates to the company of the port sippers of the middle common room.

Haunted houses

The spectre of Michael Heseltine continues to haunt the hapless Leon Brittan who, having hung on, now at last faces the imminent boot from his ministerial rooms in the Commons. He is presently at loggerheads with Tarzan's old department over plans to upgrade RAF Leeming in Yorkshire. Several of Brittan's constituents have complained that the value of their property will crash when Leeming becomes a Tornado F2 base next year. Offers to buy the houses at "deflated" prices with double glazing to keep out the noise have been rejected as desirous by some locals. But he should find a more sympathetic ear in Lord Trefgarne. "We have made offers to buy 21 of the houses and will be providing sound insulation," said an MoD spokesman.

Beastly luck

Michael Lings, the former chairman of the Bow Group who was branded as "crackers" by Mrs Thatcher after he accused the Tories of a cop-out, seems to be back in favour. Or is he? The party last night selected a prickly little constituency for him to fight: the 14,000-majority Derbyshire seat of the Beast of Bolsover, Dennis Skinner.



I've just come up from the shop floor. They're putting sell-by dates in the Land Rover

Tiny's tidy sum

Tiny Rowland is unlikely to regard the expected American bid for Lorhno as the unacceptable face of capitalism. According to the recent annual report, he owns 47,250,000 shares in the company, almost three million bought in the last financial year. With the market expecting an offer of more than £3 a share, that should bring him a cool £150 million. He also has an option on a further 640,000 shares and an undisclosed stake in a company which owns just over 30 million Lorhno shares. Not bad for the son of a Hamburg merchant interred as an enemy alien in the Second World War.

Art royal

Princess Michael of Kent may be the next royal to be involved in a government investigation through her job as an art dealer with the MacConnaill-Mason gallery (see yesterday's Diary). As a director of the gallery, the Princess is automatically a member of the British Antique Dealers Association, which is now providing a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into art dealers' auction rings with detailed information gleaned from members. When it was launched, there were fears that dealers and auctioneers would collude, and it was suggested that a Commons select committee be set up to call experts individually. Yesterday, a government spokesman said the investigation had prompted further inquiries by the government into, among other things, buyers' commissions and auctioneers' attribution of art works.

PHS

Carrington's banana skin

Richard Owen talks to Nato's chief about tomorrow's Spanish referendum and the prospects for a Reagan-Gorbachov summit

Brussels Lord Carrington is facing his biggest political test since he resigned as Foreign Secretary over the Falklands crisis and became Nato secretary-general nearly two years ago. Tomorrow, if the opinion polls are right, a majority of Spanish voters will ignore the advice of their prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, and vote to take Spain out of Nato only four years after it joined. Carrington faces this prospect with a combination of concern for Spain's western identity and Alliance cohesion and the kind of languorous aplomb which is the hallmark of his political style.

Carrington's title, his debonair charm and his acres in the Chilterns made him an object of some suspicion to American officials when he first moved into the Nato hot seat in Brussels. Alexander Haig, then Secretary of State, is supposed to have called him duplicitous. But he has confirmed what Carrington-watchers knew from his career as Defence and then Foreign Secretary: behind the ironic and agreeable air, and the occasional attack of diplomatic deadness, lies a gimlet sharp mind and highly developed political antennae.

Nato, he emphasizes, is not just a military organization but also has a role in East-West relations. Now that the superpowers are talking again, "people are beginning to realize that Nato is also a political alliance. When I arrived here there was no contact between East and West, and no suggestion of a summit."

So far Carrington has proved adept at keeping together a political and military alliance of 16 disparate nations from Norway to Greece. He observes that the problem of Nato cohesion is not new, but when a split appeared likely over European attitudes to Star Wars, Carrington displayed his difference of style by having all

the Western defence ministers round for dinner and engineering a compromise over the claret. Spanish withdrawal would upset this smooth performance; Carrington himself speaks of a "political setback". Two months ago his astute suggestion in Madrid that Spain could enjoy "a la carte" Nato membership, like France, by belonging to Nato's political arm but not its military structure appeared to have helped Gonzalez to swing the reluctant Spaniards behind Nato. Both Carrington and Gonzalez stress the logical connection between Spain's membership of Nato and its entry into the EEC. All this may now be jeopardized by right-wing tactical voting against Gonzalez and the Socialists. Carrington speaks with undisguised irritation of a possible "unrepresentative result."

On the other hand he sees the Spanish problem in the context of 36 successful years of Western and Nato survival. The alliance can manage without Spain, although it would rather not. If the Spanish think they can rely on the EEC for security they are deluding themselves. "Partly because of Irish membership the EEC doesn't talk about security at all. This is a gap which Nato fills for Europe."

The Spanish vote therefore comes at a time when Nato and Carrington are in confident mood. He detects a "total turnaround" in the East-West atmosphere since he arrived at Nato and is not dismayed by the recent harsh Reagan-Gorbachov exchanges or by speculation that the next superpower summit is in danger. "There is no doubt the Americans want a summit, and there is no doubt that the general feeling, not just in the West but in the non-aligned and Third World, is that it is a good thing for the leaders to talk. In the light of this is the Soviet Union going to say no? Frankly I rather doubt it. They saw what happened last time when they walked out at Geneva. They were the losers."

Carrington's main regret is that

there has been a decline in the bipartisan approach to defence in many European nations over the past 10 years, with left-wing parties favouring unilateralism and non-nuclear defences. But he emphasizes that Nato countries are developing conventional forces as well as nuclear arsenals within the limits of available resources. As for congressional resentment in Washington over the burden of defending Europe, Carrington points out that when he was Defence Secretary 16 years ago similar noises were coming from the isolationist Senator Mansfield. Senator Nunn, the current proponent of reduced American commitments, is by contrast pro-Nato.

Carrington firmly believes in the value of arms co-operation (pace the Westland affair) both between Europeans and between Europe and the US. He describes the lack of standardization, with Europeans developing identical weapons, as ludicrous. But arms co-operation must be transatlantic and not just inter-European. "Otherwise you are going to find the Americans looking down their noses and wondering what the hell is going on."

Are American-European tensions exaggerated? "I think so. The alliance does not exist without the Americans. Obviously the Europeans have to watch very carefully that their relationship with the Americans is a good one. That is quite a large part of the job of secretary-general. That is what I am here for."

Does he have any regrets at leaving British politics for Brussels? Carrington pauses, then chuckles. "You mean, do I miss the squabbles of party politics? Well, sometimes. But there is a lot to be learned from avoiding war and creating a more stable relationship between the superpowers is much more important. Peace is not the least of the social services."



'There is no doubt the Americans want a summit, and there is no doubt that the general feeling, not just in the West but in the non-aligned and Third World, is that it is a good thing for the leaders to talk. In the light of this is the Soviet Union going to say no? I rather doubt it.'

Dennis Kavanagh assesses the change in attitude to Conservative policies and suggests that a major about-turn is on the way

Thatcherism's last gasp?

The many difficulties besetting Mrs Thatcher's government have begged the question of the future of "Thatcherism". Enemies and friends alike have claimed that the government's changes of course are evidence that a distinctive style is on its way out.

The difficulties of analysing the Thatcher record are partly caused by the inflationary rhetoric which surrounds her and the exaggerated perception of the coherence and consistency of speeches and policies. The *Thatcher Phenomenon* (BBC Publications, £8.95), by Hugo Young and Anne Sloman, is a welcome publication in book form of Radio 4's documentaries. "Phenomenon" is a fair description: no other prime minister this century has given his name to a style and doctrine.

The term Thatcherism is often used in three different contexts. The first is her beliefs and non-sense style ("can't see an institution without hitting it with her bandage"). Her beliefs encompass dismissing the "progressive", "permissive" consensus and the public sector as essentially parasitic on the wealth creators; the advocacy of hard work, thrift, self-reliance, free markets and people not looking to the nanny state to solve problems. Has there ever been a British leader who so regarded politics as a suitable arena for the expression of personal beliefs?

But Thatcherism is also a set of policies designed to realize the vision of a strong state (law and order, defence and stable currency) and a free economy (cutting state spending and taxes, and privatization). The record here is less convincing. Both taxes and spending are higher as a share of gdp than in 1979, when Britain was allegedly "over-taxed" and spending was out of control. The party which promised to roll back government has been ruthlessly centralist vis-a-vis local government, higher and state education, and the health service. The goals of containing public spending and improving efficiency have triumphed over local choice and pluralism.

Worldwide fall in support for the left

Thirdly, Thatcherism was also born of a reaction to high inflation, trade union power and general unease about ungovernability in the mid-1970s. But this mood was not confined to Britain. In many countries the economic recession and slow growth undermined support for the welfare consensus: there was a backlash among skilled workers against high taxes to pay for the social wage and redistributive programmes. The mood created difficulties for the political left, as voters turned away from parties associated with high spending and taxation.

In Britain, Scandinavia, West Germany and the USA there has been a steady reduction in working-class support for parties of the left. It was Reagan (but could have been Carter, Callaghan or Thatcher) who said: "Government is not the solution to our problems. Government is the problem."



has given voice to many grassroots Tory views about the unions, law and order, "scroungers" and capital punishment.

An insight into what might remain of her achievements in a post-Thatcher era should start with the Conservative Party. She has effectively reshaped its leadership strata for the 1990s, but not necessarily in her own image. At present only five of the 21 Cabinet members do not owe a first preference to her. Yet the Cabinet today also has a distinctly non-Thatcherite look. The interventionists and spokesmen for One Nation values are perhaps better placed than ever. The Westland affair led many commentators and Conservative MPs to assume that the Thatcherite era was drawing to a close.

The balance sheet of the successes and failures of Thatcherism will be apparent only after she goes. If there is a new common ground then a future Labour government will adapt to it, just as the Conservatives accepted Labour's post-1945 policies and

American Republicans accepted the New Deal. Her government does seem to have shifted the ground on such issues as trade union balance, sales of council houses to tenants, privatization of a number of state firms and services and heightened the issue of law and order.

In these areas the ground has probably moved to the right. Already Labour has calculated that there are few votes to be gained from returning to the status quo ante. Indeed, Labour may have been relieved of some electoral millstones that have held it back in the past. It has to come to terms with an electorate which is increasingly middle-class and less involved in manufacturing, trade unions, public sector employment and council housing. The government has weakened many of the structural bases of Labour voting.

It is also likely that no subsequent government of any party will relax the post-1979 central controls over local authorities. Since 1945 local-central relations have moved in one direction only. Each party when in office has been

Support for Thatcherite beliefs

	1983		1985		Balance of Pro and Anti	
	(1) Pro	(2) Anti	(1) Pro	(2) Anti	(1) Pro	(2) Anti
When dealing with political opponents, stick firmly to one's beliefs or meet your opponents halfway?	50	39	39	52	11	-13
Governments can't do much to create prosperity; it is up to people to help themselves. Agree or not?	48	38	41	43	10	-2
In difficult times should government be tough or caring?	46	35	36	50	11	-14
In dealings with the world is it better for Britain to stick resolutely to its own position, or meet other communities halfway?	29	59	30	60	-30	-30
When governments make economic policy is it better to keep unions and business at arm's length or involve them?	27	62	22	69	-35	-47
Average	40	47	36	55		

Source: Gallup

more concerned to control what Lord Hailsham (in opposition) called the "active dictatorship" that is curbing it.

Finally, the vocabulary of the Labour leadership has also been changed. Profits, enterprise, production and value for public money are in favour. Any refutation which threatens inflation is out. Renationalization is not "a high priority". After 1983 few believe that there is a silent majority for socialism. Neil Kinnock increasingly combines the approach of Gaitskell to his left wing with that of Harold Wilson to a non-socialist salaried electorate.

Mrs Thatcher in 1983 overturned two rules of post-war British politics and of Labour's operational code: that a government could not be re-elected with record unemployment and that it could not govern without the cooperation of the major economic interests.

Complex mood bridging the political divide

The Thatcher goal of creating an enterprise economy and a self-reliant society, however, does not seem to have impressed itself on voters. Public opinion has actually moved against her on whether voters prefer tax cuts (and reduced government spending on services) or an increase in both. In 1979 Gallup found that a third of voters preferred over, a third an increase in both, and a quarter wanted things left as they were. Since 1979 there has been a steady reduction in the number of tax cutters and an increase in government spenders, even if it means higher taxes. In 1985 the latter outscored the former 59 per cent to 16 per cent. The accompanying table shows a further swing away from Thatcherite ideas towards "caring and consensus government" in 1985. Thatcher government may be creating an equal and opposite reaction to itself: a legacy of two terms of office may well be the promotion of values she has denigrated.

The mood is therefore complex and even across the old left-right political divide. There is approval for the free market as a means of wealth creation, and many of the economic policies this might entail. But there is also wide support for state or collective provision for welfare, even over tax cuts. Thatcherism has been half successful, repudiating Keynes but not Beveridge. In Scandinavia the reaction has been similar: approval for a state role in welfare but not for state intervention and controls in the economy.

There is little doubt that the three major parties will be aware of this mood at the next election. But will Mrs Thatcher be the best leader to preserve the new ground? She is a leader who thrives on adversity politics. Her particular qualities have paid rich dividends when launched against unpopular targets, a Gallieni or a Scargill. The support she may win in a crisis, where minor disagreements are buried in the face of a much disliked enemy, can evaporate in everyday disputes where her views must compete with other, acceptable views. Instead of having a successor who carries on her work she may find that her retirement is a sign that public opinion and politicians are again seeking a conciliatory and emollient leader. The author is professor of politics at Nottingham University.

Roger Scruton

Wronged in the name of rights

Alterations in the language of public debate, and in the categories through which the social world is understood and acted on, are of decisive importance. The totalitarian movements of our century have shown that the seizure of language is an effective step towards the seizure of power. They have also shown that a wholly unnatural form of government may be maintained indefinitely by the unceasing broadcast of potent lies and by the destruction of the language in which the truth may find expression.

In a less extreme and less violent way, the language of public debate has been important in shaping Western democratic politics. In particular, the shift on the left away from traditional socialism has followed an increasing lack of confidence in the language through which socialism had been justified. "Equality", "social justice", "public ownership" - these notions have lost their superficial clarity and their rhetorical appeal. There has therefore been an interesting return to the original idea of left-wing politics: the idea of the Rights of Man. It is through the conception of a human right that egalitarian values now find their most influential expression.

Ironically, therefore, the idea which once defended individual liberty, private property and the restriction of sovereign power is now a weapon against private property, against "bourgeois" liberties, and against those who seek to "roll back the frontiers of the state".

The idea of "rights" is indeed a potent weapon in the hands of the radical, not least because the old guard lacks the strength to attack with it, and has forgotten how to use it as a shield.

During the miners' strike, the National Council for Civil Liberties - a body with impeccable left-wing credentials - was much exercised by the need to defend Arthur Scargill and his militants. The right of the working miners to proceed peacefully about their business had to be set aside in favour of a "right to picket". And as Professor Dworkin has told us, the rights of militant radicals include the right to "march their way to outrage", and hence to make as much abusive noise as may further the egalitarian purpose.

By a few deft sleights of hand, the NCCL was able to take the lesson offered by the new school of jurisprudence, and to invent as many rights as the left-wing conscience deemed necessary for the defence of illegality. This was just one instance of the tricks which the language of "rights" has now been taught to play. Consider also the "right to work".

For the traditional liberal, this denotes the freedom to go about one's business undisturbed. Such a right is of course threatened by violent picketing. For the leftist a freedom that can be exercised only by the fortunate is a freedom which violates equality. Such a freedom must therefore not be given the status of a right.

Instead a new "right to work" has been invented: not a liberty, this time, but a claim. This right is honoured not by leaving its holder

undisturbed but by actively looking after him. The new "right to work" requires a vast effort of social mobilization if it is to be upheld.

Jobs and opportunities must be created and the economy fashioned accordingly. If this involves the restriction of those "bourgeois" liberties that flourish in the marketplace, then so much the worse for bourgeois liberties. Some must be forced, so that others may be free.

The notion of a "claim right" is not new to jurisprudence. For instance, if I contract with you, and perform my part of the bargain, then I have a claim against you. If you refuse to honour your promise, then you violate my rights. But claims arise only when duties are fulfilled, and it is a singular feature of the new ideology of rights that duties are seldom mentioned (least of all by those who enjoin us to "take rights seriously").

Furthermore, in traditional liberal thinking the rights of the citizen were not claims but liberties: they were granted to the citizen in return for his obedience, and were to guarantee that he retained an effective veto in all matters that most intimately concerned him.

The new "right to work", however, is not a veto but a command. It obliges the state not to stand outside its threshold, but to cross the threshold of others so as to compel them to say Ait. But if the state really does have the duty to uphold these novel claims; by what duty do I gain my title to them? What do I owe to the state in return for the enormous claims that I am encouraged to make against it? The duty to obey the law has been taken fairly lightly by the left.

The last Labour Party conference showed that it is not obedience but disobedience which defines the egalitarian idea of citizenship. Labour is encouraged by the new jurisprudence, which seeks constantly to augment the store of rights (including the "right to civil disobedience") while diminishing the fund of duties. In jurisprudence elsewhere, egalitarianism inflates the moral currency, and erodes the capital of civil virtue.

In this way, the language of rights has taken on a new meaning. Instead of guaranteeing those freedoms whereby the competent could govern, it now tips the balance permanently against all forms of human excellence, and against every species of elite.

At the same time, it becomes the source of a new corruption. No duties are imposed on the man whose "right to work" is to be inflicted on the public purse. Even the duty of obedience is set aside by the champions of the underdog. And this steady erosion of legality, responsibility and public spirit is effected in the name of that old chimera - the Rights of Man.

Edvard Goldstücker was chairman of the Czechoslovak Writers' Union during the Prague Spring of 1968 and not Jaroslav Seifert, as stated in Roger Scruton's column of January 28.

The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.

moreover... Miles Kington

One over eight to the bar

I was much impressed the other night when Steve Race introduced a repeat of a jazz concert first shown in 1964 on BBC2. The leader of the group, tenor saxophonist Coleman Hawkins, had been a little "unwell" on that occasion, Race remembered.

What impressed me - apart from the fact that the Scotch didn't seem to have had too much effect on Hawkins, who kept upright and played pretty well - was that Steve Race should have mentioned the fact at all. It is far from unknown for jazz musicians to go on stage drunk, or even for them to become drunk on stage, having entered sober, but it is very rare for anyone to mention it, even 22 years later, in print or in vision.

I reviewed jazz for *The Times* for 10 years in the 1960s and 1970s, and there were many times when the man I was reviewing was somewhat the worse for wear. The usual symptoms were a glassy smile, a look of deep concentration and an inability to locate the microphone. As soon as he started playing, things were usually all right, as the old reflexes took over, but sometimes things were all wrong and he was barely capable of playing more than a few notes.

I kept being reminded of Eddie Condon's remark: "I arrived at the club in a state of perfect equilibrium: half man, half whisky." My problem was how to suggest what had happened without actually suggesting it, as it were, and I don't think I ever solved it satisfactorily. I once asked the then arts editor, John Lawrence, if it were in order to mention such a thing in print.

"Theoretically, yes," he told me. "If you say that X gets drunk when he plays, then that is libel for it suggests a permanent state of affairs. If you say that X happened to be drunk last night, then it is not libellous, as it is reporting a real event. That is the theory. In practice, you had better not mention it." I didn't. Most jazz events, of course, are wonderfully sober and abstemious affairs. I sometimes thought of writing

in a review that X was totally sober last night, but this too might have libellous overtones.

What is undeniably true is that many famous jazz musicians have become legends not just for their playing, but also for their rip-roaring behaviour, from Bix Beiderbecke through to Charlie Parker, yet you will search reviews of the time in vain for any mention of an accompanying bottle. I think it was Cootie Williams when reminiscing about his days with the Duke Ellington Orchestra who tried to remember anyone in the band who didn't drink, and failed.

"They all drank except me," he said. "Then I left to form my own band. And when I became a band leader, I started drinking!"

What has been missing from jazz history, I have always thought, is a wild rip-roaring review. We critics have always been quiet, well-behaved, dutiful performers, never getting uproariously drunk on the job or going spectacularly horizontal during a concert.

The nearest anyone has ever got to that is Michael Zwerin, the excellent *Herold Tribune* jazz writer, who is a sober, abstemious, etc follow these days but who according to his autobiography, *Close Enough for Jazz*, had some wild times. The book opens startlingly with his memories of a board meeting of an American steel company in about 1960.

By day Zwerin was chairman of the steel company (inherited from Dad) and by night he led a jazz group in New York. The reason he remembered the meeting so clearly was that in the lobby outside there was a drug-pusher waiting for him, with supplies for his group. Nowadays I understand that big business and drugs are not unconnected, but in 1960 it must have been a weird juxtaposition.

What was I? Oh, yes. Belated congratulations to Steve Race on turning up for the Coleman Hawkins concert with a "bottle" of Scotch. But why did you bring the whisky, Steve?



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 11 1815

Napoleon Bonaparte, crowned emperor of the French in December, 1804, abdicated in April, 1814. The following month Louis XVIII entered Paris and Napoleon landed on the island of Elba. His exile there was brief; in March, 1815 he was back on the mainland. His power of appeal and the memories of past glories brought the populace flocking to him. Marshal Ney, sent to apprehend him, fell under the old spell and embraced him. By March 20 he was at the Tuilleries and Louis had fled to Ghent. The adventure lasted 100 days, on June 18 he met Wellington at Waterloo.

NAPOLÉON ESCAPES FROM ELBA

Early yesterday morning we received by express, from Dover, the important but lamentable intelligence, of a civil war having been again kindled in France, by that wretch BUONAPARTE, whose life was so impudently spared by the Allies and ourselves. It now appears that the hypocritical villain, who, at the time of his cowardly abdication, affected an aversion to the shedding of blood in a civil warfare, has been employed during the whole time of his residence at Elba, in carrying on secret and treasonable intrigues with the tools of his former crimes in France. At length, when his plots were ripe, he sailed from Elba, with all his guards, between 12 and 1300 in number, on the night of the 28th ult. and landed near Frejus, in France, on the 3d instant. Some accounts state that a considerable number of military were collected on the coast awaiting his arrival, and immediately joined him, and that he advanced at their head upon Lyons. Other accounts represent that MASSENA, who had been appointed by the KING to command at Toulon, was the chief manager of the conspiracy, and had placed all the soldiers in the department of the Var at BUONAPARTE'S disposal. Be this as it may, there can be no doubt but that he will be joined by all the worthless, and disaffected, who unhappily form a large portion of the disbanded, and we fear, not a few of the embodied soldiery in the south of France. When the intelligence reached Paris, the KING immediately took the most decisive steps for quelling the insurrection. He issued a Proclamation, declaring BUONAPARTE and all his adherents traitors and rebels, and authorising any person to seize and deliver them over to justice; and by another Ordinance, he convoked both Houses of the Legislature to assemble, without delay, at their usual places of meeting in Paris. This virtuous and excellent Monarch, who, since his accession, has done so much good to the country blessed with his government, may boldly appeal to the nation and its representatives for support. If they can be insensible to the blessings of a constitutional and liberal Government, if they can be ungrateful to a truly paternal Monarch, if they do not with abhorrence shake from them this viper of Corsica, their former stain, their scourge, and their disgrace, they are not worthy to be reckoned among mankind; they can never be considered capable of those principles and sentiments, which are the only real guarantee of peace between the nations of the earth. But we will not anticipate so deep a blot upon the page of history. The illustrious Princes of the House of Bourbon, MONSIEUR, the Duke of BERRY, and the Duke of ORLEANS, have in the Northern Ireland elected authorities do not set rates for themselves, the British Government will appoint commissioners to set rates and presumably to collect them. Since no Protestants will volunteer for such duties and no Catholics will dare to come forward, the commissioners will have to be recruited in Britain. No doubt the advertisements for the jobs have already been prepared. Yours faithfully, ANDREW GILCHRIST, Arthur's Quay, Hazelbank, By Lanark.

Future of Ulster

From Sir Andrew Gilchrist Sir, In your editorial (March 5) on the disturbance in Northern Ireland you point to the "low key" role of the RUC and refer to the Army as "being kept well out of sight". You mention also that the "Loyalist" strikers aimed to "strain the loyalties of the Province's (mainly Protestant) police force". You might have added that the IRA, who know their history, have recently chosen the RUC as a principal target.

In 1920 the forces making for Irish independence sought to "strain the loyalty" (i.e., loyalty to the British) of the Royal Irish Constabulary by a powerful programme of bait and propaganda supplemented by large-scale shooting. The RIC began to weaken, resignations increased, no recruits appeared; and the British Government felt compelled to enlist servicemen from England. It will be recalled that those alien policemen soon acquired a famous name.

As in Ireland in 1920, there is today in Northern Ireland a body of native-born Irish policemen who are placed between the army of the ruling power ("direct rule" is the present system) and the civilian population, enabling the Army — as you say — "to be kept out of sight". Without the RUC the Army itself would have to take over direct police duties. Not only the Army would be openly involved in the process of "direct rule"; we are told that if the Northern Ireland elected authorities do not set rates for themselves, the British Government will appoint commissioners to set rates and presumably to collect them. Since no Protestants will volunteer for such duties and no Catholics will dare to come forward, the commissioners will have to be recruited in Britain. No doubt the advertisements for the jobs have already been prepared. Yours faithfully, ANDREW GILCHRIST, Arthur's Quay, Hazelbank, By Lanark.

As in Ireland in 1920, there is today in Northern Ireland a body of native-born Irish policemen who are placed between the army of the ruling power ("direct rule" is the present system) and the civilian population, enabling the Army — as you say — "to be kept out of sight". Without the RUC the Army itself would have to take over direct police duties. Not only the Army would be openly involved in the process of "direct rule"; we are told that if the Northern Ireland elected authorities do not set rates for themselves, the British Government will appoint commissioners to set rates and presumably to collect them. Since no Protestants will volunteer for such duties and no Catholics will dare to come forward, the commissioners will have to be recruited in Britain. No doubt the advertisements for the jobs have already been prepared. Yours faithfully, ANDREW GILCHRIST, Arthur's Quay, Hazelbank, By Lanark.

Ancient and modern

From Mr Alec Bristol Sir, Though your 84-year-old correspondent Mr Jack Sykes (March 1) is somewhat my senior in years (I am nearly 77), I fancy I am his senior in word-processing. This letter is being written, during a train journey, on the little machine, not much bigger than a paperback book, which has been my constant companion for the past four years or so. When I get home I shall plug it into my electronic typewriter, which will type it out at dazzling speed. The pleasure an old man derives from showing he can still master this advanced technology must be matched by the pleasure of those who no longer have to struggle to decipher the shaky handwriting that accompanies advancing years. Yours sincerely, ALEC BRISTOW, The Grange, Thwaite, Eye, Suffolk.

Meaningful terms

From Mr Basil Boothroyd Sir, The interesting thing is to have a house for sale on the books of two agents, anyway if as in my case, it has a wooden structure down the garden. This was described in one of the specifications as "a delightful sun loggia" and in the other as a "strong shed". Yours sincerely, BASIL BOOTHROYD, Peeters, Church Street, Cuckfield, Sussex.

Hatless in London

From Mr Richard F. When Sir, My observations of commuters alighting at Cannon Street station during the recent cold weather show that not one in 50 (male or female) was wearing any form of headgear. Does this demonstrate the high cost of hats, optimism that by the time the train gets to London the weather will have turned tropical, British sang-froid, but thieves at work, or what? Yours faithfully, R. WHEN, The Grange, Rectory Lane, Buckland, Bechworth, Surrey, March 5.

Rising to bait on fishing party

From Mr Guy Cheyney

Sir, As one of the participants in the controversial television programme, *The Fishing Party*, I feel obliged to reply to the scathing criticism levelled at both my colleagues and myself by the media and public alike.

It is possible that a very different film to the one envisaged by us was always in the offing. It is equally possible that had we caught the giant halibut there might have been a very different film. Somehow I doubt whether we shall ever know.

Were we misrepresented, even deceived, or are we really just rich psychopathic killers verging on the morose? To the former my response is yes, and as for deception only if one fails to admit to trust and vanity. To the latter, as we have been branded, I must address myself to those members of the Press who, I assume, credit themselves with infinitely more intellect.

Why, I wonder, have they reviewed the result of the experiment, or more accurately fractions of it, without a modicum of intelligent research into its process, coupled with what I presume is the normal quota of inaccuracies and even more naive presumptions? They are certainly unable to recognise the flippant, if only they could distinguish it.

I cannot regret this film, as I enjoyed every minute making it, merely the omissions. For the record, I am not rich. I do not shoot seagulls. I do not like cats and I thoroughly support the reintroduction of both corporal and capital punishment.

I think I will now join the ranks of the Champagne socialists, as it is evidently easier and more rewarding — assuming that I can take the hypocrisy. Yours faithfully, G. R. S. CHEYNEY, 116 Cambridge Street, SW1.

Case for outside interest in BL

From Mr Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey North West (Conservative)

Sir, It seems that some of the business decisions needing to be taken over the future of BL are being clouded by emotion. To allow one's heart to rule one's head is a luxury that the prudent investor cannot afford.

HM Government is the major investor (99.7 per cent) in BL plc, a quoted company; the rest of the shares are held by 60,000 long-suffering private investors. The company faces considerable problems.

First is Leyland Trucks. There is some 40 per cent unused capacity in Europe, resulting in losses of £400 million a year. Clearly there has to be a rationalisation. International mergers or collaboration are increasingly seen as sensible solutions.

GM, with 60 years of operating efficiently and responsibly in the UK, is one obvious buyer of the truck division. Land-Rover, with the financial backing available, should prove a suitable candidate for a management buy-out.

The other problem is the Austin-Rover group (ARG). There is little doubt that almost any owner would be better than Government. Government is no longer a good owner. For governments are made up of politicians and Civil Servants, generally with a lack of understanding of industry's needs, but with an insatiable appetite for day-to-day interference in the firms they control. Any chairman of a State-owned industry will confirm this.

Nowadays, companies have to invest large sums in new technology if they are to compete. If they fail to make the investment they fall behind and Britain suffers in terms of wealth creation and employment. But governments have many calls on the taxpayers' cash — more pressing than capital equipment for companies — for example, investment in schools and hospitals. That is why Government is not a good owner. All companies must be free to have access to the capital markets to fund their crucial investment in new technology.

Emotional hand-wringing about keeping ARG "British" is unhelpful. Despite the valiant efforts of the current managers it is still unlikely that long term ARG can prosper alone. Already Austin-Rover is de facto an Anglo-Japanese firm through its successful collaboration with Honda.

I saw evidence of this for myself the other day when I visited the Honda plant in Japan. Listening to the chairman and managers it was clear that collaboration is seen by Honda as a long-term arrangement to the benefit of both companies.

I understand the feeling about keeping our industry British. However, the reality is that multinational collaboration and ownership is the likely shape for any serious players in the automobile industry of the future. Personally, if I were a worker in Cowley, Longbridge or Leyland, I would feel more secure if the shares in my company were owned by GM, Honda, or British shareholders rather than by HM Government. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL GRYLLES, (Chairman, Conservative Backbench Trade and Industry Committee), House of Commons, March 6.

Moves to Rome

From Mrs W. Allan Griffiths

Sir, There is some ground for the concern in the Church of England reported on the front page of *The Times* (March 4). Five motions emanating from the reports of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission are currently circulating the Church of England's Diocesan and Deanery Synods, having been passed to them for debate by the General Synod.

The five motions are obscure, complex in form and contain very lengthy references by means of page numbers, to two even more wordy documents not, in most cases, in the possession of members of Deanery and Diocesan Synods. The motions cannot be amended, but only accepted or rejected.

There is also lack of information about the use to which these resolutions are to be put, thus raising the question whether such ill-prepared motions and discussions are to be used to give the impression that they are an informed response by representative members of the Church of England to the effect that the Church of England should start taking concrete steps to reconciliation with the Church of Rome.

The report *Faith in the City*, recently debated at the February General Synod, made no fewer than 23 recommendations for action by the Government and Nation. Is it not true that the Church of England also applied its critical faculties to the conduct of its own business? Yours faithfully, KATHLEEN GRIFFITHS, Thorpe House, Station Road, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, March 6.

Law centres at risk

From Cardinal Hume and others

Sir, Last year 10 million people sought help from their local advice centre. This year, many will find they have nowhere to turn to, as Britain's 2,000 or so independent advice and law centres face an unprecedented threat to their future. For many years advice and law centres have been funded inadequately, with seven government departments, various local authority committees and some charitable trusts all providing some, but never enough, money.

Despite repeated assurances to the contrary from central government, the abolition of the metropolitan county councils and the GLC this month will mean the closure of many centres and the loss of skilled workers in others. Rate limitation and changes in urban programme policy will compound the problem. It is estimated by the Advice Services Alliance that over one half of all centres will be affected in some way.

It is vital for the millions of people who use these centres each year that they do not disappear. We urge central government to produce a coherent national policy on the funding and development of all advice and law centres to ensure they are accessible to all those who need them. Without such a commitment the situation can only deteriorate still further. Yours,

BASIL HUME, President, Shelter, MASHAM of ILTON, President, Disability Information & Advice Lines, MCGREGOR of DURRIS, President, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, JAMES FAWCETT, President, UK Immigrants Advisory Service, C. J. SCHOFIELD, Chair, Law Centres Federation, MONICA A. HEALY, Chair, Legal Action Group, ERIC GILLET, Chair, Secularisation of Citizens Advice Bureaux, GEOFFREY MUNDAY, Chair, National Association of Young People's Counselling and Advisory Services, CLIVE OLIVER, Chair, Federation of Independent Advice Centres, Advice Services Alliance, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1, March 10.

The 'workers'

From Mr B. R. Toomey

Sir, Far too often the word "workers" is used in this country in a divisive and seemingly pejorative sense. Politicians of all parties do it, as do some company directors and managers.

As a company director I am proud to call myself a "worker". It seems to me that communications and involvement in industry, leading to a commitment by all to the goals of the business and to international competitiveness, can only be improved by making every attempt to avoid appearing to be divisive.

It seems unnecessarily divisive to use the term "managers and workers" in counterpoint. Perhaps *The Times* could set an example in this respect.

Yours faithfully, B. R. TOOMEY, Four Forks House, Spaxton, Bridgwater, Somerset, February 24.

A suspect gloss

From Mr Peran T. Dachinger

Sir, An "honest, unostentatious appearance" may well be a prime requirement for purchases of antique furniture, but I would in your correspondent, Mr Bear (March 4), that few paintings in salerooms present anything other than a dishonest appearance when left uncleaned. Often the work of previous restorers is hidden under layers of dirty varnish which in itself may be wreaking considerable damage to the original work.

Victorians were very fond of over-painting scenes which did not subscribe to contemporary

mores and many a modern restorer has disclosed an original nude under a 19th-century figleaf or a bull-baiting scene beneath an unexceptional woodland picnic.

It is to be recommended that today's artists should enhance their canvases by applying a patina in order to ensure future sales? I would submit this is as unnecessary now as it was when John Constable mixed his colours or Michelangelo by his frescoes (noting that the word fresco means fresh).

Yours faithfully, PERAN T. DACHINGER, 67 Shirland Road, Maida Vale, W9.

Musical standards

From Sir Charles Groves

Sir, Fione Maddocks' sane and perceptive article on the music colleges in today's *Times* (March 6) is fortuitously complemented at the bottom of the same page by a very favourable review from your music critic of the production of Nicholas Maw's opera, *The Rising of the Moon*, at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

A few years ago, a work of such complexity, challenging singers and instrumentalists alike, could never have been undertaken at a music college. Now students can perform it and critics can review it with the same professional assumptions.

Surely this is the real evidence of the rise in standards at our music colleges; and how wrong we should be to concentrate our resources and attempt to produce the elusive and unpredictable world-class soloist.

Yours faithfully, CHARLES GROVES, 12 Camden Square, NW1, March 6.

Meaningful terms

From Mr Basil Boothroyd

Sir, The interesting thing is to have a house for sale on the books of two agents, anyway if as in my case, it has a wooden structure down the garden. This was described in one of the specifications as "a delightful sun loggia" and in the other as a "strong shed". Yours sincerely, BASIL BOOTHROYD, Peeters, Church Street, Cuckfield, Sussex.

MONEY FOR FARMERS — AGAIN

On the face of it, the meetings of the European Community's finance and foreign ministers which began yesterday will be occupied in routine business. No storms of the kind which threatened the cohesion of the Community before Fontainebleau are in sight. Nor will there be the bad feeling which erupted last year over the way to proceed to greater unity.

The principal task of the economic committee is to begin the application to the 1987 Budget of the procedure by which finance ministers lay down global sums for blocks of expenditure. That, of course, is of significance to agricultural ministers since it has also been agreed that spending on farm support should grow less fast than the Community's "own resources" revenue. In other words, it must decrease as a proportion of total Community expenditure.

On the foreign ministers' agenda budget discipline will also loom large. At least it ought to. Their need is not so much to consider the figures as to discuss the entire relationship between budget and farm support. It once again, despite Fontainebleau, threatens a crisis.

It is the hidden rather than the nominal agenda that matters. The value of the dollar has fallen in relation to the ecu (the European unit of account); it is now clear that the Community will reach the ceiling of its own resources sooner than expected.

At Fontainebleau, the ceiling was raised to 1.4 per cent (of a notional VAT proceeds scale). This was expected to last until at least 1988. But by 1987, perhaps by the end of this year,

it will no longer suffice to cover spending. Some progress has been made to bring down the level of agricultural support. The Commission has produced a package tough enough to provoke loud protests from farmers throughout the Community, including Britain.

Germany is a much weaker reed than Britain in the matter of farm support. Although the Germans pay more for EEC farm support than any other member, and pay lip-service to cutting it, their own small farmers benefit massively. There is an interest in the Federal Government needs for social reasons. But Britain mirrors the same sort of problem. So does France, the traditional defender of subsidy, which now finds itself a substantial net contributor to EEC farm payments.

The fundamental question is whether all that can be done is to reduce the level of support within the existing system, or whether the system can be changed. Proposals tantamount to such radical change have come from the Commission: One is for phasing out altogether the intervention-buying of beef, except in an emergency. It has provoked much protest and is hardly likely to be practical politics. In any case, it does not touch the worst example of the price-support dilemma — cereals.

Cereal farmers are overwhelmingly the largest recipients of farm support. Their support costs more as the falling dollar brings European grain into closer competition with the transatlantic commodity. (Yet the rebuke to the EEC for its agricultural

policy just delivered in London by the American Economic Under-Secretary, Mr Wallis, has something of a pot-and-kettle look about it in view of the Americans' own support and surplus system.) The truth is that nobody is thinking of total reform. No member state dissents from the principle that small farmers should be kept in business for social reasons, even though in practice they only scratch along under a system where the big farmers make the big profits.

One solution might be to let member states subsidize their own small farms if they wish. But "renationalization of the CAP" is unacceptable; it goes against the principle of integration.

In practice, therefore, the only kind of reform envisaged is pragmatic price reductions which fall on large and small farmers alike, and which the Germans resist. The Community is returning to its old quandary. Unless it again increases the "own resources" contributions it will not balance its budgets. But increasing resources again is politically impossible; what is the point, if it ends in still bigger stockpiles and more public rage?

Grain support levels have been reduced, but with technical advance, the yield still increases. While 70 per cent of Europe's budget goes on agriculture, agriculture supports only 10 per cent of Europe's population. Throughout the world there is growing production and a shrinking market. Much more basic thinking is needed than any that will arise from current agendas.

CLEARING THE COURTS

The aftermath of a brutal assault that has shocked opinion and inevitably lowered public confidence in society's orderliness, it might be thought, a time for reformers of the criminal justice system to lie low. Attention naturally focuses on the police, and their work of detection. Soon the public will turn to ministers. They will ask for action and the mettle of the Home Secretary will be tested.

He will have immediate questions to answer, for example about the unsatisfactory state of the law governing the identification of victims of rape before charges are brought. He will, if he is honest, dispense with easy rhetoric about dramatic action. In coping with crime there are no instant recipes. Levels of crime will respond, eventually, to policing resources, sentences, the penal regime and to reform of judicial procedure. Effecting that reform cannot, nor has Mr Hurd shown any evidence of wanting to, ignore ambiguity in public opinion or ride roughshod over rights and liberties.

Take one of the planks of last week's White Paper on criminal justice, the future of trial by jury. The institution is too popular. Its popularity with the public makes the politics of reform difficult. Yet its popularity with defendants makes reform a growing necessity. More and more defendants are opting for trial by

jury on charges which could, if they agreed, be tried by magistrates. The administration of justice suffers.

The Government has appointed more judges and opened new courts. But pressure of business in the Crown Court has increased. There are still long delays before a case is brought to trial. In 1984 defendants pleading not guilty in England and Wales had to wait on average almost five months between committal and trial. Some waited in prison for months.

Delays of this kind put an unacceptable strain on defendants and their families. Injustice results when cases become stale, memories fade, and witnesses become unavailable. Since the burden of proof lies with the accuser, this works in the accused's favour. So the acquittal rate in contested cases in the Crown Court is twice as high as in the magistrates' courts.

The White Paper proposed reducing the number of offences carrying a right to choose jury trial. The majority of those convicted of the offences of common assault, driving while disqualified, and taking a motor vehicle without the owners' consent do not in fact receive sentences beyond the magistrates' powers. There are already comparable offences, some of them more serious, which can only be tried summarily. So far the argument is sound. But the Government

wants to go further. It proposes abolishing right of jury trial for offences of dishonesty involving property of less than a specified value. Ten years ago the James Committee made a similar suggestion. Parliament rightly rejected it.

The stigma which attaches to theft is so great that jury trial should be available, irrespective of the value of the property. Value is not necessarily a reliable indicator of the seriousness of the offence. The Government says it would give magistrates discretion to commit a case to trial if they were satisfied that the offence was one of unusual gravity, even if the property involved was of small value. The Government is also considering making provision for jury trial to remain available in exceptional circumstances — to defendants with no previous convictions for dishonesty.

Such proposals cannot be accepted. People must be allowed to live down their past. There cannot be two classes of citizens entitled to different modes of trial for the same offence of dishonesty. An accused person's previous record is normally inadmissible for the purpose of determining guilt. It should remain inadmissible for determining the way in which his guilt is to be established. The presumption of innocence should apply equally for both purposes. In all these small cases of dishonesty the accused must keep his right to jury trial.

REPUBLICANS PAST AND FUTURE

With the death at the weekend of former Senator Jacob Javits American politics lost a stalwart. His passing, taken with the departure from the Senate of Charles Mathias of Maryland, confirm the permanency of an intra-party shift. The East Coast wing of the Republicans is no more.

Javits was best described as a pro-business liberal — he was proudly the "Senator from Wall Street". In his approach to foreign policy, his New York background and his open demeanour he stood within an older tradition in his party, one associated for ever with former Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller. In modern Republican demagoguery no face is quite as wary.

In the way of things, Rockefeller will in time get his revisionist. For Javits, however, it may be different. His courage in his last years as a victim of a debilitating disease raised his stock. In years to

come the reputation mongers may point the other way.

For Javits helped turn the Senate Foreign Relations Committee into an adjunct maker of American foreign policy. As such he was responsible for the diminished standing of his country during the 1970s when we are now so clearly aware, the Soviet Union engaged in a chapter of international adventurism and armaments build-up. It is now much less clear that the reduction of the President's powers of military command engineered by the senator was either effective, as a barrier to covert executive action, or useful in the prosecution of American interests in South East Asia or anywhere else.

The end of the Rockefeller Republicans encapsulates, for some observers, the victory within the party of President Reagan's beliefs. Indeed in recent politicking the only question for Republican

contenders was who would inherit the President's ideological mantle. The nuances of that quest have seemed to be the only thing that distinguished Vice-President Bush and (a conservative trying to build a populist constituency) Representative Jack Kemp.

But the passage of Javits' generation should not be read too easily as a rightwards shift. The Vice-President has still to shake off a patina of Eastern liberal diffidence. Senator Dole and Senator Baker, representing new political regions, are difficult to place, perhaps avatars of a new heterodoxy. Out of the conservative far west, home of the President, comes Senator Laxalt of Nevada.

The soul of the GOP is up for grabs. Senator Javits' passing shows the absence in the party's counsels of an older brand of liberalism. But it gives scant ground to where the Republicans are heading.



# LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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## A Long UK Tradition

General Motors has been an integral part of British industry since 1925. In that year we acquired Vauxhall. In 1931 we began building Bedford commercial vehicles.

In good times and bad, in peace and in war, we have gone on investing in Britain. Producing in Britain. Exporting for Britain. Providing thousands of jobs.

In our 60 years we have produced 5 million Vauxhalls. At Bedford we have built 3.5 million commercial vehicles.

We also make a wide range of components in the UK.

Humble items like filler caps and air filters. High-technology items such as instrument clusters and catalytic converters. Nearly three-quarters of this output is exported.

## Resources, Research and Development

General Motors is one of the world's most successful motor manufacturers. It leads the field in many areas of research, development and the application of new technologies.

GM's British operations have access to those worldwide resources and capabilities. Capabilities that gave the motorist the energy absorbing steering column, the multi-beam headlamp and safety wind-screen glass and that now contribute to space exploration.

It is GM's technical excellence in the UK, as elsewhere, that is keeping the Corporation at the leading edge of new product design and the manufacturing systems to make those designs.

## Some UK Milestones.

- 1925 Vauxhall joins the GM family of companies
  - 1930 'Cadet' launched - first fruits of GM's investment
  - 1931 First Bedford truck produced
  - 1939-45 250,000 Bedford trucks and 5,640 Churchill tanks produced during World War II
  - 1947 Bedford first British manufacturer to make 500,000 trucks
  - 1969 New 700 acre proving ground opened at Millbrook, Bedfordshire
  - 1978 The 3 millionth Bedford commercial vehicle produced
  - 1981 Bedford celebrates 50 years of making British trucks
  - 1982 1,500,000th Bedford exported
  - 1984 Cavalier best-selling car in its class
  - 1985 Astra wins 'Car of the Year'
- GM's commitment to Britain in the year included:
- £395m in exports (up 25% over 1984)
  - £1,000m of British goods and services
  - 100,000 people employed, directly and indirectly
  - £290m in wages and salaries
  - playing our part in the community (for example by training 600 young people full-time)

\*'Car of the Year' is organised by Telegraph Sunday Magazine, Autocar, Autovisie, L'Equipe, Stern and VI Bizarre.

## Production and Marketing Skills

Quality and value are GM watch-words in the quest to succeed in a highly competitive worldwide marketplace.

It is with these criteria in mind that GM has invested over £1.2 billion in the UK in the past decade.

The Cavalier has a superb reputation for quality. Vauxhall sales figures prove the point. The Astra, in car and van versions, is another success story - in market acceptance and in helping to maintain employment in the depressed North West at Ellesmere Port.

Bedford has gone on competing. Nearly half its truck output is exported. And all this despite over-capacity in the world commercial vehicle market.

UK component operations, with advanced design and manufacturing as good as any in the world, export over 70% of their output.

GM is proud of the tradition of its British companies. It plans to build on that tradition.

Into the 21st Century.



## General Motors. The name behind a great British family.

VAUXHALL · BEDFORD · GMSPO · AC DELCO · AC SPARK PLUG · DELCO ELECTRONICS · DELCO PRODUCTS · FISHER BODY · SAGINAW · GMAC

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1305.6 (-3.2) FT-SE 100 1572.2 (-1.6) USM (Datastream) 116.37 (+1.27)

THE POUND

US dollar 1.4430 (-0.0120) W German mark 3.2879 (+0.0316) Trade-weighted 73.7 (unch.)

Murdoch profit rises 88%

Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International group yesterday announced pretax profits up 88 per cent in the last six months of 1985 to £34.5 million.

The group, which owns The Times, The Sun, News of the World and The Sunday Times, said it did not expect the present dispute with print unions to have a "significantly adverse" impact on profits in the first half of this year.

The pretax profits were up to £34.476 million from £18.728 million in the last half of 1984. The board said the increase was due to a better trading performance.

The shares rose £1 to £10. A 4.8662p interim dividend was declared against 5.2545p last time.

£1.6bn jet orders

International Aero Engines, the five-nation jet engine consortium which includes Rolls-Royce, has won orders worth \$1.6 billion (£1.1 billion) from six airlines.

IAE was formed to produce the V2500 turbo-fan engine, a new generation power plant for the next range of 150-seat commercial passenger jets.

Mr Ralph Robins, managing director of Rolls-Royce and the incoming chairman of IAE, said yesterday that the V2500 was on course to gain its airworthiness certificate in April, 1988, and to enter service powering the Airbus Industrie A320 a year later.

TDG higher

Transport Development Group's pretax profits jumped by 23 per cent to £29.7 million in 1985. Earnings per share rose from 10.8p to 12.4p and the dividend is increased from 5.6p to 6.2p.

Arms chief

Royal Ordnance, the state-owned arms manufacturer which is due to be privatized in July, has appointed Mr Roger Pinnington of Norcross as its chief executive from April 1.

Glass deal

Pilkington Brothers, the glass manufacturer, is acquiring the North American glass manufacturing and processing business of Libbey-Owens-Ford in exchange for its 29.5 per cent holding in LOF.

Yarrow ahead

Yarrow says its forecast extraordinary loss provision of £500,000 will be reduced significantly after the sale of its gilt portfolio. The company reported pretax profits of £1.06 million in the six months to December 31 compared with £578,000 a year earlier. The interim dividend is doubled to 5p.

Argyll stake

Argyll Group, through its merchant bankers, Samuel Montagu and Charterhouse Japhet, has raised its stake in Distillers to 13.22 per cent by buying 1.65 million more shares.

Broker bought

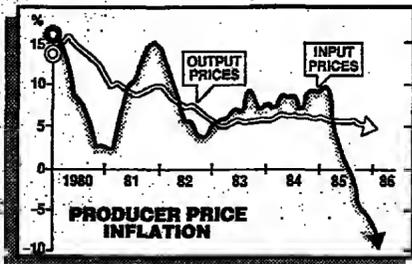
Australia and New Zealand Banking Group yesterday raised its stake in Capel Cure Myers, the stockbroker, from 29.9 per cent to full ownership. The purchase price was not disclosed.

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price Change. Includes items like RISES, Scapa, Pilkington, G Wimpey, Martiner, etc.

Factory prices continue to rise despite falling costs

Industry's costs dropped sharply last month, as the pound stalled and electricity costs fell. Over the past 12 months, industry's input prices have plunged by nearly 10 per cent.



In contrast, the prices charged by manufacturing industry continue to increase. Last month there was a 0.4 per cent rise in output prices, compared with 0.6 per cent in January. But the 12-month rate dropped from 5.2 per cent to 5 per cent, the smallest rise since the current statistical series began in 1971.

The gap between industry's material costs and factory gate prices suggests that firms are likely to enjoy a substantial profits bonus as a result of lower commodity and energy costs. But one reason for the continued rise in output prices is that wage costs are growing at an underlying rate of nearly 9 per cent in manufacturing.

input prices fell by 1.2 per cent last month. New tariff arrangements for electricity meant that the post-winter fall in charges came through earlier than usual.

The pound was steady against the dollar, the average exchange rate for the month showing a rise of 0.3 per cent and this, in combination with weak world prices, produced a

fall in industry's imported raw material costs. There was also a substantial fall in the posted prices of petroleum products. Officials said that the effects of the three factors were roughly equal in producing the fall in input prices.

Compared with February last year, input prices have fallen by 9.5 per cent, the

highest 12-month fall since the 1950s. In January, input prices were down by 7 per cent.

The February figures may represent the low point. In March last year, as the effects of the pound's recovery came through, input prices fell by 1.5 per cent. A larger decline than this would be needed to push the 12-month fall above February's 9.5 per cent.

However, further oil price and electricity price declines will still come through to the figures and the pound, while volatile, has remained above its February average since the dollar so far in March.

The drop in producer prices will feed through to lower retail price inflation in the coming months. The Chancellor will publish a new inflation forecast in the Budget next week and is expected to stick to his prediction of 3.75 per cent inflation in the fourth quarter.

Tin prices reach lowest point for nine years

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Tin prices on the grey market, now rapidly becoming the real market, fell to around \$5,250 a tonne yesterday, their lowest for nine years and £1,000 below the settlement price set by the London Metal Exchange.

The weakness in advance of tomorrow's "ring out" on the LME, when all contracts between members and between members and their clients must be settled in cash at the fixed price of £6,250 a tonne, is bound to raise more questions about the wisdom of the LME's solution to the tin crisis.

A ruling price significantly out of line with the market price may also increase the risk of disgruntled holders of contracts bringing legal actions against the exchange.

Mr Michael Brown, the

LME's chief executive, admitted yesterday that the exchange expects suits to be brought against it.

But one broker in the thick of the crisis, Gerald Metals - its managing director, Mr Ralph Kestevenbaum, was one of the authors of the rejected Tinco rescue plan - said yesterday that it had ample resources to cover losses likely to be incurred from the ring out.

The device is called a ring out when all members of the exchange settle outstanding contracts at a fixed price. This was used in June, 1985 after the International Tin Council huffer stock manager, Mr Pieter de Koning, had successfully squeezed speculators trying to force the price down. Officially the ITC has not given up hope that the Tinco

plan can be revived. Delegate sources said yesterday that they were waiting to hear formally from Indonesia and Thailand that they had turned down weekend requests to reconsider their rejection of the scheme.

The sources said that should Indonesia join the scheme, Thailand was likely to follow, India, which had reserved its position, would also join in.

The sources added that Brazil which, although not a member of the ITC, has become a substantial tin producer in recent years, had shown interest in participating in Tinco.

But most brokers and bankers are sceptical. They are bracing themselves for tomorrow's round of what one called "bloodletting."

Argyll goes to appeal

Argyll Group's attempt to block its rivals Guinness in the battle for control of Distillers moved to the Appeal Court yesterday.

Last week, Mr Justice Macpherson dismissed Argyll's application for an order declaring illegal the Monopoly and Mergers Commission decision to call off its inquiry into the Guinness bid.

Argyll had accused the chairman of the Monopolies Commission, Sir Godfrey Le Queux, QC, and the junior Trade Minister Mr Geoffrey Pattie, of acting unlawfully in "laying aside" the reference of the Guinness bid to the Commission.

Mr Alan Heyman, QC, opening Argyll's appeal against Mr Justice Macpherson's decision, told Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Neill there were four main issues.

They were: Did the chairman of the Commission correctly direct himself in law as to whether the proposal to make arrangements mentioned in the merger reference, had been abandoned within the meaning of section 75(5) of the Fair Trading Act, 1973?

Did the chairman acting alone have power under the Act so to determine? If Argyll succeeded on either of these questions ought the court to withhold relief in its discretion?

Ought the court to withhold relief on the ground that Argyll had no sufficient interest in the matter?

Argyll claimed that Mr Justice Macpherson was wrong in law in holding that the function of the Commission under section 75(5) could validly be performed by the chairman alone.

The hearing is expected to last three days.

Shares sellout

Gold Greenless Tron received 44,000 valid applications for more than 177 million shares, about 59 times the number offered for sale. Applicants seeking 200-10,000 shares go into a weighted ballot for 200 shares and those seeking at least 15,000 shares will receive about 2 per cent of their application.

Shops target

T and S Stores expects to have 100 stores by the end of this year. The company made pretax profits of £1.22 million for the year to January 4 against £805,000. The final dividend is 1.8p.

No referral

The proposed merger of the textile companies, Coats Patons and Vantona Viyella, will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Ladbroke in £201m DIY deal

By Cliff Feltham

Ladbroke, the betting and hotels group, yesterday agreed to pay £201 million for Home Charm Group, the Texas Homecare DIY chain.

The deal, which nearly collapsed because of disappointment over Home Charm's most recent profits, rounds off a big shake-up in the DIY market.

Payless, which operates 68 superstores in the South-east, was sold by the Marley group at the end of last week for £94 million to Ward White, the fast moving retail group.

The bid for Home Charm, which has the backing of directors and relatives of Mr Manny Fogel, the chairman, speaking for more than 25 per cent of the equity, involves a straight one-for-one share swap, placing a value on each Home Charm share of 35p or a cash alternative of 32.5p.

A week ago, Home Charm announced the withdrawal of a mystery bidder after talks had broken down, causing its shares to plunge from a peak of 390p to 285p although they later recovered.

Ladbroke, which admits it was in the talks, says it decided to revise its offer after it emerged that Home Charm profits were likely to disappoint. Yesterday, the group announced pretax profits of £10.9 million, down from £11.1 million, and some way off the £12 million anticipated by the market.

Home Charm blames the setback on a costly store opening programme. Ladbroke yesterday reported that its own full-year profits had risen by 50 per cent to £75.1 million.

Rank tells court of 'unfair pressure'

The Independent Broadcasting Authority's decision to veto The Rank Organisation's £750 million bid for control of Granada was taken after pressure from Granada to block the takeover, a QC said in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Ian Hunter, QC, for Rank, told Mr Justice Mann Granada executives asked the IBA to rule against the Rank bid. He accused the IBA of refusing to hear representations from Rank before making its decision.

He was opening Rank's application for an order quashing the veto and an injunction banning the IBA from cancelling Granada's North-west television franchise if the takeover goes ahead.

Mr Hunter said that on February 21 there was a meeting between executives of the IBA and Granada attended by Lord Thomson, IBA chairman.

On February 24, Granada wrote to the IBA, opposing the bid and urging the authority to make the decision that Rank was not an approved company and to make that decision quickly.

"No copy of the letter was sent to Rank and no intimation was given that the letter had been written," said Mr Hunter.

"It looks as though the IBA representatives agreed with Granada that Rank was not to be given the status of an approved company."

Despite Lord Thomson's assurances on February 20 to Sir Patrick Meaney, the Rank chairman, that Rank would be invited to make representations as soon as the IBA had been approached by Granada over the offer, this was not done before the decision was



Lord Thomson: denied acting improperly

made, Mr Hunter said. Rank contends in the case - expected to last for two days - that the decision by the IBA to block its takeover of Granada was unreasonable.

Rank also contends the IBA was wrong to claim the takeover fell foul of the 1981 Broadcasting Act.

In a sworn statement, Lord Thomson denied he or the authority had acted improperly.

He said the meeting with Rank would over-inflate the value of Granada's shares.

Lord Thomson said it was the IBA's policy to look at every takeover case on its own merits. "I am satisfied that the authority acted fairly and in compliance with its statutory duties."

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Golden Wonder price attacked by Hanson

Lord Hanson, the chairman of Hanson Trust, returned to the fray yesterday in support of his £2.3 billion bid for Imperial Group by attacking Imperial's planned sale of its snacks subsidiary Golden Wonder "at a discount" and "over the heads of its own shareholders".

Hanson Trust was responding in press reports that the sale of Golden Wonder was imminent for a price between £55 million and £60 million. Some City analysts had estimated it was worth more than £70 million. Hanson Trust accused Imperial and United Biscuits of acting with unseemly haste in trying to push through their agreed merger.

Following an incorrect press report, it also questioned why Morgan Grenfell, UB's adviser, was seeking buyers for Golden Wonder rather than Hambros, Imperial's adviser. But Hambros confirmed that it was handling the sale. Imperial denied that it would sell Golden Wonder at anything other than a highly justifiable price. It questioned the correctness of some analysts' estimates of Golden Wonder's worth.

Hanson Trust also issued two documents entitled "Why you should vote in United Biscuits offer for Imperial" and "The value of Hanson Trust's offer". Hanson repeated its attack on UB's purchase, through Morgan Grenfell, at a 14.9 per cent stake in Imperial.

Hanson claims the purchase was a breach of the spirit of Stock Exchange rules, which forced the Exchange into introducing a rule to prevent companies entering into similar arrangements without shareholders' consent.

Hanson listed all its various combinations of offers for Imperial and pointed out that UB had no all-cash alternative and no comparable offer in Hanson's share and loan note option.

UB's share and cash offer was worth £2.5 billion at UB's closing price of 233p last night. There is little between the bids in money terms and the outcome is expected to be decided on the two different concepts involved and expectations of the after-bid performance of the shares.

Poor little MO

Today's money supply numbers have been given an added frisson by the Chancellor's decision to reinstate the sterling M3 target in the Budget in a week's time. The return of sterling M3, even looked at in the negative sense of there being no other good measure of broad money to slot into its place, is also likely to mean that the markets will find even less in

both about in the movements of narrow money, M0.

The money numbers, the last major set of economic statistics before the Budget, have to be well-behaved. Welcome relief though the 0.1 per cent January rise in sterling M3 was - this more than anything helped the authorities get away with only one base rate rise - Mr Lawson would give a hint for a similar rise, for banking February, to be announced today.

On this, as might be expected, there are different schools of thought among City economists. One is that January was not an aberration and that the huge public sector surplus for calendar January - the second half of which is in banking February - implies no increase in sterling M3.

A second school adopts the tried and trusted Bank of England method of taking two months together. A good month is usually followed by a bad one, so January's virtual standstill for sterling M3 could have been followed by a 2 per cent rise last month.

In the middle, comes the view that bank lending will be higher, but offset by the public sector's negative contribution, giving 1 per cent on sterling M3.

Clearly, the last thing the Chancellor wants at this stage, with the hulls at the base rate gate, is a bad set of sterling M3 numbers, even on the argument that this would allow him enough base drift to have a sporting chance of staying within a sterling M3 target, if only for the first few months of the financial year.

Hoare Govett appears to be at the top of the forecast range, predicting a 1.8 per cent February sterling M3 rise. The main counter-parts are a £1.75 billion bank lending increase and an expansionary public sector influence of £650 million. If there is a 1.8 per cent increase, the 12-month rate of increase in sterling M3 would be the highest since 1980.

Laurie Milbank, just below Hoare Govett at 1.75 per cent, similarly refuses to be over-persuaded by the January figures. It predicts bank lending will return to a normal £1.5 billion, compared with £0.4 billion in January and the public sector will be expansionary by £1.1 billion.

Whichever end of the range emerges at 2.30 this afternoon, problems of interpretation will remain. Higher interest rates have the short-term effect of boosting sterling M3. Now that the Chancellor has abandoned overfunding, it could be argued that the logical response in a bad set of money numbers is to cut base rates.

Granada enters hotel battle for business travellers

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

A battle to woo the budget-conscious business travellers is breaking out with the entry this summer of the Granada Group into the hotel sector so far exploited in Britain only by Trusthouse Forte.

But there are already signs of competition from hotel companies in France where this new market is more mature and still growing.

The costs of an overnight stay are as little as half that at typical chain hotels catering mainly for business travellers. This is because the cost per bedroom of providing the new-style units has been brought down to £20,000 or less compared with a typical provincial three-star hotel building price of £45,000 to £55,000 a bedroom.

Granada is planning a chain of Granada Lodges, with the first 20 to 30 units likely to be brought on stream relatively quickly to achieve a national presence. The first two opening this summer will together cost around £2 million.

Trusthouse Forte, Britain's biggest hotels company, has already successfully opened two Little Chef Lodges and envisages a chain of about 100 with the bedroom units going

up on sites used by Little Chef roadside restaurants of which Trusthouse Forte has now opened more than 200.

There is increasing trade speculation that French specialists in this developing market will mount an attack in Britain.

Companies linked with Accor, the big French hotels and restaurants operator, already have a foothold in Britain, including Novotel (a three-to-four-star chain) and Ibis (two-to-three-star). Ibis, with a London Heathrow airport hotel operating and one near Euston railway station due to open in July next year, is already pricing keenly at about £5 below the going rate for its hotel categories.

Other French operators in the budget-price sector include Mercure (also part of Accor), Climat de France and Campanie. Another budget-price concept at Accor is a one-star hotels chain.

Accor's strategy in Britain has so far been to establish Novotel outlets mostly on or near motorways. There are currently five such sitings, at Brentford, Coventry, Nottingham, Plymouth and Preston. Novotel's main London prop-

erty is its hotel at Hammersmith. Ibis hotels are expected to be in towns or adjacent to key airports and rail stations.

There are plans for a hotel near Luton Airport and the aim is to grow the chain to six or seven outlets within five years.

It seems unlikely that Accor will be content to keep its involvement with the British market at this level. Like other hotel groups it has taken a keen interest in the Trusthouse Forte initiative on the budget-priced lodges. The Accor group now accounts for some 530 hotels and 1,800 restaurants worldwide.

The marketing strategy behind the lodge-style accommodation in Britain is to exploit what is seen as a gap in the overnight stay market. At present any business travellers like the self-employed or those with smaller companies looking for cheaper accommodation have to seek out individual lodgings whose quality can vary widely.

The first two Granada Lodges will be at Stirling, opening in May with 36 bedrooms, and Exeter, a 58-room complex due to open in July.

Consumer credit sets record

By Our Economics Correspondent

The consumer credit boom has continued into this year, according to figures published today.

Credit on hire purchase, and on bank and in-store credit cards, totalled £2,735 million in January, compared with £2,591 million in December.

The figures include those for Access and Barclaycard, with in-store credit cards like the Marks and Spencer charge card, for the first time. American Express and Diners Club cards, as genuine charge cards, are not included in the credit figures.

However, even without the inclusion of the new figures, credit rose to a record in January. On the old basis of

hire purchase and other instalment credit, the total increased from £1,192 million in December to £1,388 million in January, a rise of 16.4 per cent.

This was mainly because of special low-cost finance schemes offered by the motor manufacturers in January, although the underlying demand for credit remained strong.

Retail sales for January were better than the provisional information suggested. The index of retail sales volume (1980=100) was revised from 116 to 117, 0.3 per cent below the December peak.

But the rise in the November-January period, compared with the previous three months, was a modest 1 per cent, suggesting some slow-

down in the pace of spending. Compared with a year earlier, sales were up by 3.5 per cent.

February's icy weather took some toll of retail sales, but trade reports indicate continued growth with some chains claiming increases of up to 10 per cent after allowing for inflation.

The Retail Consortium welcomed the re-assessed figures for January, commenting: "The January sales clearly did better than some had expected."

At the 21 department stores of the John Lewis Partnership the effect of the wintry weather was felt particularly in the last week of February when the chain failed to meet its sales targets. Sales were up by only

7.8 per cent, but over five weeks to March 1, covering the bad weather, sales overall were up 11 per cent.

Allowing for sector inflation, actual sales growth would probably have been around 8 per cent. Sales of some goods rose during the frost and snow, gloves alone saw increases of 180 per cent in the last week of February and were running at almost double last year's levels during February as a whole. But items like fashion wear were selling less well during the bad weather.

Sales of domestic electrical appliances are running about 10 per cent ahead of this time last year according to Rumbelows, the electrical goods chain.

Advertisement for J. A. DEVENISH plc, including details of share issues and company information.

WALL STREET

New York (Reuters) - Stocks moved higher in active trading after profit-taking on lower interest rates died out. Traders said the tendency to sell on "good news" was apparent early in the day. The Federal Reserve Board lowered the discount rate to seven per cent and banks followed by lowering prime rates to nine per cent.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which was up six points in a one day stage, closed at 1,699.83, up 3.3.

Eastman Kodak was down 1 1/2% to \$58. Chemical Bank New York was up 2 to 49 1/2% as bank stocks gained on lower rates.

The American Stock Exchange prices closed at a new high in moderate trading. The Amex market value index rose 1.19 to a record 260.05.

Market rates day's range

1 month 1.35-1.40 3 months 1.45-1.50

2 month 1.38-1.43 6 months 1.48-1.53

3 month 1.40-1.45 9 months 1.50-1.55

4 month 1.42-1.47 12 months 1.55-1.60

5 month 1.44-1.49 18 months 1.60-1.65

6 month 1.46-1.51 24 months 1.65-1.70

7 month 1.48-1.53 30 months 1.70-1.75

8 month 1.50-1.55 36 months 1.75-1.80

9 month 1.52-1.57 42 months 1.80-1.85

10 month 1.54-1.59 48 months 1.85-1.90

11 month 1.56-1.61 54 months 1.90-1.95

12 month 1.58-1.63 60 months 1.95-2.00

13 month 1.60-1.65 66 months 2.00-2.05

14 month 1.62-1.67 72 months 2.05-2.10

15 month 1.64-1.69 78 months 2.10-2.15

16 month 1.66-1.71 84 months 2.15-2.20

17 month 1.68-1.73 90 months 2.20-2.25

18 month 1.70-1.75 96 months 2.25-2.30

19 month 1.72-1.77 102 months 2.30-2.35

20 month 1.74-1.79 108 months 2.35-2.40

21 month 1.76-1.81 114 months 2.40-2.45

22 month 1.78-1.83 120 months 2.45-2.50

23 month 1.80-1.85 126 months 2.50-2.55

24 month 1.82-1.87 132 months 2.55-2.60

25 month 1.84-1.89 138 months 2.60-2.65

26 month 1.86-1.91 144 months 2.65-2.70

27 month 1.88-1.93 150 months 2.70-2.75

28 month 1.90-1.95 156 months 2.75-2.80

29 month 1.92-1.97 162 months 2.80-2.85

30 month 1.94-1.99 168 months 2.85-2.90

31 month 1.96-2.01 174 months 2.90-2.95

32 month 1.98-2.03 180 months 2.95-3.00

33 month 2.00-2.05 186 months 3.00-3.05

34 month 2.02-2.07 192 months 3.05-3.10

35 month 2.04-2.09 198 months 3.10-3.15

36 month 2.06-2.11 204 months 3.15-3.20

37 month 2.08-2.13 210 months 3.20-3.25

38 month 2.10-2.15 216 months 3.25-3.30

39 month 2.12-2.17 222 months 3.30-3.35

40 month 2.14-2.19 228 months 3.35-3.40

41 month 2.16-2.21 234 months 3.40-3.45

42 month 2.18-2.23 240 months 3.45-3.50

43 month 2.20-2.25 246 months 3.50-3.55

44 month 2.22-2.27 252 months 3.55-3.60

45 month 2.24-2.29 258 months 3.60-3.65

46 month 2.26-2.31 264 months 3.65-3.70

47 month 2.28-2.33 270 months 3.70-3.75

48 month 2.30-2.35 276 months 3.75-3.80

49 month 2.32-2.37 282 months 3.80-3.85

50 month 2.34-2.39 288 months 3.85-3.90

51 month 2.36-2.41 294 months 3.90-3.95

52 month 2.38-2.43 300 months 3.95-4.00

53 month 2.40-2.45 306 months 4.00-4.05

54 month 2.42-2.47 312 months 4.05-4.10

55 month 2.44-2.49 318 months 4.10-4.15

56 month 2.46-2.51 324 months 4.15-4.20

57 month 2.48-2.53 330 months 4.20-4.25

58 month 2.50-2.55 336 months 4.25-4.30

59 month 2.52-2.57 342 months 4.30-4.35

60 month 2.54-2.59 348 months 4.35-4.40

61 month 2.56-2.61 354 months 4.40-4.45

62 month 2.58-2.63 360 months 4.45-4.50

63 month 2.60-2.65 366 months 4.50-4.55

64 month 2.62-2.67 372 months 4.55-4.60

65 month 2.64-2.69 378 months 4.60-4.65

66 month 2.66-2.71 384 months 4.65-4.70

67 month 2.68-2.73 390 months 4.70-4.75

68 month 2.70-2.75 396 months 4.75-4.80

69 month 2.72-2.77 402 months 4.80-4.85

70 month 2.74-2.79 408 months 4.85-4.90

71 month 2.76-2.81 414 months 4.90-4.95

72 month 2.78-2.83 420 months 4.95-5.00

73 month 2.80-2.85 426 months 5.00-5.05

74 month 2.82-2.87 432 months 5.05-5.10

75 month 2.84-2.89 438 months 5.10-5.15

76 month 2.86-2.91 444 months 5.15-5.20

77 month 2.88-2.93 450 months 5.20-5.25

78 month 2.90-2.95 456 months 5.25-5.30

79 month 2.92-2.97 462 months 5.30-5.35

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES. Market rates day's range. 1 month 1.35-1.40 3 months 1.45-1.50

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS. Dollar 7 days 7 1/2-7 7/8 1 month 7 3/4-7 7/8

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral 1:1700-1725 Australia dollar 1:1700-1725

GOLD

Gold 999.9 343.00-343.50 343.50-344.00

ECGD

Road Rate Starting Export Finance 1 month 12 1/2-12 3/4 3 months 12 1/2-12 3/4

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Starting 88.05 88.10 88.15

CANADIAN PRICES

Alcan 24 1/2 24 3/4 25 1/4

The expected US discount rate cut sparked a brief resurgence in sterling on the currency markets. But the pound was forced to give up most of its gains, ending at 1.4550 to the dollar, against 1.4585 overnight and a high of 1.4600.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland 1.3510-1.3550 Singapore 1.3510-1.3550

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral 1:1700-1725 Australia dollar 1:1700-1725

GOLD

Gold 999.9 343.00-343.50 343.50-344.00

ECGD

Road Rate Starting Export Finance 1 month 12 1/2-12 3/4 3 months 12 1/2-12 3/4

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE. Soyabean meal, coffee and cocoa in E per metric tonne

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE. Official Turnover Figures. Price in E per metric tonne

WHEAT. 2010-2020. 2020-2030. 2030-2040

COPPER HIGH GRADE. Cash 100.00-100.50

STANDARD CATHODES. Cash 970.00-975.00

COBALT. 1518-16

COFFEE. 2488-85

GAS OIL. 183.80-184.50

SOYABEAN. April 136.4-136.5

ALUMINIUM. 78.00-78.50

INVESTMENT TRUSTS. High Yield Company. Price Chgs. %

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

High Yield Company. Price Chgs. %

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Table with multiple columns: Unit Name, Bid, Offer, Chng, Yld. Lists various unit trusts and their performance metrics.

Quotations on this page refer to Friday's trading. In the event of a bank holiday, the unit prices will be those of the previous trading day.

TEMPUS

# IMI in gentlemanly bid for Martonair

The tone of the £79 million bid from IMI for Martonair International came as a refreshing relief after the excessive language and tactics employed in some of the mega-bids in progress at the moment.

IMI and Martonair seem to have nothing but respect for each other's abilities. The two companies know each other well through their strong positions in the pneumatics industry worldwide.

Martonair's rejection of IMI's opening salvo is mildly worded and appears to hinge solely on price. Martonair knows there are other potential bidders and is rightly not prepared to throw in its hand with IMI until the market has been tested to obtain the best possible deal for shareholders.

That said, the price IMI is offering looks fairly generous. It became more generous yesterday as IMI's shares rose on excellent 1985 results, announced yesterday, and on market perceptions of the industrial logic of the offer.

IMI made pretax profits of £57.8 million, 28 per cent up on 1984, on sales only 4 per cent higher. It also raised its dividend to 5.25p, a rise of 16.7 per cent. The margins on its fluid power business, which it wants to group with Martonair's pneumatic control equipment, rose to a handsome 13.2 per cent from 2.8 per cent four years ago.

The synergy argument is a convincing one. IMI is strong in the US and less successful in Germany. Martonair has done well in Germany and less well in the US. On both a geographical and product basis, the two companies are a good fit and together they stand a better chance of competing with the large Japanese, German and US competitors.

At a closing price for IMI shares of 165p, up 15p yesterday, the offer values Martonair shares at 605p each, compared with a price of 410p before the bid approach was revealed last week. The exit p/e ratio on historic earnings is a far-from-mean 21.5.

It could be argued that IMI is paying too much, given the potential danger that the pneumatic industry is at the top of its cycle. There is a feeling in some quarters that IMI would do better to move into an entirely new area rather than put too many eggs in the pneumatic basket.

There is also the danger of a competition response. IMI argues that the combined share of the British pneumatic

control equipment market would be under 20 per cent, but that all depends on how the Office of Fair Trading segments the market.

For the moment, Martonair shareholders should sit tight and see if any other bidders are flushed out.

## Pilkington

Since 1982, when Pilkington acquired its 29.5 per cent holding in Libbey-Owens-Ford of Ohio, the corporate planners have been considering the strategic next step. Not being a company to rush into things, Pilkington chose to wait for a full turnaround to profits at LOF's glass business before suggesting the swap of its near one-third stake in LOF for the glass operations, which conveniently account for about a third of LOF sales.

The deal values the glass operations at about \$310 million (£215 million), allowing for the \$70 million debt which Pilkington will take on board. As an independent company, the glass business would have contributed pretax profits of about \$47 million in 1985, \$11 million up on Pilkington's share of profits from its LOF holding. In 1986 LOF glass sales are expected to increase from \$690 million to \$785 million which, on maintained margins, will mean operating profits of more than \$57 million and a useful boost to earnings next year.

The acquisition makes Pilkington the undisputed world leader in float glass production, and it will significantly shift the geographical balance of the company so that about a third of sales arise in the US.

Meanwhile, Pilkington's plans to expand its electro-optical and ophthalmic interests run on with the acquisition of a US electro-optical company under negotiation. It is more than a year since Pilkington's £105 million rights issue, but when the company's year ends on March 31 net debt is unlikely to be higher than 30 per cent of shareholders' funds so, while the company digests LOF and Syntex, further small purchases are likely.

Pilkington will next year drop its additional depreciation charge, and profits - after containing redundancy charges - could reach £174 million compared with the £132 million (on the same basis) expected by the market for 1985-86.

The shares, up 13p at 438p, have risen from below 300p at the time of the interim

results, and are selling on 10 times prospective earnings. The re-rating should have further to go.

## TDG

You might expect a company run predominantly by Scots to be cautious. But in the road transport business, it is the only way to stay alive and Transport Development Group has done more than just stay alive.

Being a true service company, its fortunes are inextricably linked with those of its customers. Its road haulage companies must be able to respond quickly to increases in demand in the economy to enable it to deliver higher quantities of goods to the consumer. Its storage business will thrive when manufacturers have the confidence to rebuild stocks. These two activities together account for about 85 per cent of TDG's business.

The 1985 results announced today showed a pretax profit of £29.7 million, up 23 per cent on last year. Some of this is due to the company's own efforts to turn round some of its poor performers and shift investment out of unproductive assets. Some of it is due to an increase in traffic volumes in the United Kingdom.

TDG is a prime beneficiary of Opec's problems. It has an annual fuel bill of more than £100 million, amounting to between 20 and 25 per cent of turnover. A 2p a gallon fall in the price of diesel will feed through directly to a £1 million benefit to pretax profit.

This improvement in margins is likely to be temporary as customers will themselves seek price reductions. But there will be a time lag. Another area of improvement is likely to be the United States. Since deregulation of the road haulage industry in the early 1980s, TDG's West Coast subsidiary Willig has been able to expand organically from California into Nevada, Arizona and Oregon. It is one of the lowest cost operators in the region.

The group is very optimistic about its prospects in the United Kingdom where it still earns 62 per cent of its profit.

The market was favourably impressed with these results and marked the shares up from 161p to 174p. Given the positive outlook for the economy as a whole and oil prices in particular, a rating of 11 times 1986 earnings does not look too demanding.

# Second liners outpace blue chips

Stock markets continued buoyant on speculative buying in the wake of new takeover situations. Although down slightly at the close, shares were spurred by the prospect of a 12 per cent bank base rate next week.

The main activity was centred on secondary issues where double figure gains were common, with jobbers becoming acutely short of stock in many cases. The FT 30-share index slipped 3.2 points and the FT-SE was down 1572.2.

Government securities were in joyful mood again, closing with gains of over £1 as interest rates fell in the western world. The demand exhausted another tap issue, the 2½ per cent Exchange 1990 favoured by high taxpayers which was under-subscribed at its £77 tender price on January 22.

Leading industrials were subdued, with ex-dividend quotations distorting the FT 30 index. BTR was wanted at 453p up 8p ahead of tomorrow's results, while British Telecom reporting on Thursday lost 3p more to 22p.

Takeover situations abounded. Home Charrms opened the session with an 11p rise to 342p after agreeing 1-for-1 share swap terms with Ladbroke, 16p down at 348p. Martonair soared 65p to 600p on the quick rejection of 550p terms announced by Imperial

Metal Industries 15p higher at 165p. David Dixon at 375p returned from suspension 50p higher on the agreed offer from A J Gelfer. Merger talks between these two companies foundered three weeks ago.

In carpets, Shaw added 2p to 31p, well above the 24p offer which the directors had agreed with Lamont Holdings, 10p to the good at 172p. Other carpet shares advanced in sympathy with John Crowther, believed to be on the acquisition trail, 6p better at 143p.

Burmater improved another 6p to 150p on the chairman's optimism last week. Buebird Confectionery was hoisted 44p up to 150p on news of an approach which may lead to a bid. The Home Charm/Ladbroke deal fuelled demand for other DIY issues such as A G Stanley, the Fads group, 6p up to 80p.

In contrast Ward White dropped 10p to 256p on press suggestions that the company had paid too much for Marley's Payless subsidiary. Marley, however, hardened 2½p to 111½p after a favourable mention. Pilkington climbed 13p to 438p in response to a US deal acquiring a near 30 per cent stage in glassmaker Libbey-Owens-Ford.

George Wimpey, a perennial takeover favourite, improved 15p to 173p helped by the brighter outlook for the

building industry generated by the mortgage war between banks and building societies. Good profits helped Ransomes Sims at 170p up 10p and Parker Knoll climbed 35p to 340p following a 31 per cent increase in earnings. A 23 per cent profit increase boosted Transport Development Group 13p to 174p. One flat spot was Vinten Group which tumbled 31p to 146p on the disclosure of contract problems of a subsidiary. Johnson Firth Brown added 2½p to 35p on rumours that Heron Group had acquired a significant stake.

Comment on last Friday's statement left STC 12p lower at 120p but Amstrad continued to benefit from new product ranges, up 6p to 434p. Jaguar rose 10p to 458p ahead of Thursday's results. Breweries were quiet but Wolverhampton and Dudley managed a 5p improvement to 473p after comment. Press tips were also responsible for gains of between 3p and 20p in Trade Promotions at 156p, Bantalls 167p, Next 254p, Grampian Holdings 205p, Ryan International 34p, Cattle Holdings 53½p, Dialene 220p, Cluff Oil 34p, FKB Group 190p, Pepe Group 110p, Bush Radio 150p and Helical Bar 148p.

Cautious comment left Polly Peck 5p lower at 148p while a 40 per cent profit set back knocked 35p from Continental

Microwave at 283p. Shandwick lost 8p to 213p despite profits well up to expectations. News International climbed £1 to £10 after an 84 per cent increase. Takeover talk stimulated Woolworth at 550p up 19p.

Reed International celebrated a pension surplus which will increase company profitability by climbing 18p to 822p. Subdued food retailers featured Hillsdown Holdings up 8p to 238p ahead of today's results. Dealers are looking for profits of between £30 million and £31 million. Unigate attracted speculative interest at 262p up 10p. The Reebok forecast last week lifted Pentland a further 25p to 415p. Exco improved 8p to 232p in spite of a denial that American Express is interested in bidding. Lombrø put on 4p to 283p still excited by possible US consortium predatory moves.

Coats Patons added 4p to 261p as the Vantona bid escaped a monopoly reference. Associated British Ports was a strong market at 490p up 20p. In properties, speculative interest stimulated Rush and Tomkins at 285p up 12p. Banks were very quiet in their ex-dividend format. Insurances failed to hold early rises of 5p to 10p. Oils too were neglected. Sohio dividend payment worries overshadowing British Petroleum.

## RECENT ISSUES

### EQUITIES

Abbott Mead V (180p)	218 up 2
Ashley (L) (135p)	236 dn 2
Brookmount (160p)	178
Chart Fl (86p)	90
Chancery Secs (63p)	70 up 1
Charnwick M (95p)	106 dn 2
Davidson P (180p)	163
Dialene (120p)	220 up 45
Ferguson (J) (100p)	27 up 2
Granyta Surface (56p)	71
Inoco (55p)	48 dn 1
JS Pathology (180p)	278 up 5
Kierrold (118p)	115 up 2
Lexicon (115p)	163
Macro 4 (105p)	138
Merivale M (115p)	126 up 1
Norank Sys (90p)	106 up 3
Really Useful (830p)	361
SAC Intl (100p)	134 up 3

SPP (125p)	158 dn 1
Templeton (215p)	221
Sigmex (101p)	86
Snowdon & B (97p)	112
Spice (80p)	63
Tech Comp (130p)	214
Underwoods (180p)	183 up 2
Wellcome (120p)	184
W York Hosp (90p)	75
Wickes (140p)	156 up 8

### RIGHTS ISSUES

Cray Elec F/P	295
Hartwells N/P	6
NMW Comp	30
Porter Chad F/P	4
Safeway UK	245½ up 1
Wates N/P	24
Westland F/P	73

(Issue price in brackets).

## COMPANY NEWS

● **CSC INVESTMENT TRUST:** On Feb. 26, 1986, Dinam Investment, a company controlled by Mr E D G Davies and with whose family Dinam is acting in concert, purchased 125,000 ordinary shares at 160p/160p. As a result, Dinam has now increased its holding to 169,082 ordinary shares (10.28 per cent), while the holdings of these acting in concert with Dinam are now 636,061 ordinary shares (38.68 per cent), making a total of 48.96 per cent. Dinam, on behalf of itself and those acting in concert with it, will make an offer for the remaining ordinary shares at 161p cash each.

● **ALLIANCE TRUST:** Final dividend 14.75p, making 20.75p (17.25p) for the year to Jan. 31, 1986. Pretax profit £16.47 million (£14.41 million). Earnings per share 20.91p (17.65p).

● **DEREK BRYANT:** Final dividend 5.4p, making 8.1p for 1985, against 7.35p. Turnover £4.32 million (£3.92 million). Pretax profit £1.43 million (£1.42 million). Earnings per share 30.02p (29.32p). The board feels confident that 1986 will prove a beneficial year.

● **J JARVIS AND SONS:** Six months to Sept. 30, 1985. No interim dividend (7.2p). Turnover £11.79 million (£8.94 million). Group loss £184,000 (loss £207,000). Tax recoverable nil (£105,000). The board expects the full year to show a small profit compared with last year's loss of £705,823.

● **FOXBORO:** Net sales \$572.17 million (£395 million) for 1985, against \$515.85 million. Pretax loss \$40.05 million (£27.7 million), compared with a profit of \$972,000. Loss per share \$2.76 (earnings \$0.35). The year's results include \$43.6 million (\$3.07 a share) restructuring expenses. Incoming orders for the fourth quarter were \$126 million, bringing the year's total to \$528 million. The Dec. 31 backlog was \$223 million.

● **IU INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION:** The company is to sell one of its two distribution service units, Unijax, to Paper Corporation of America, a subsidiary of Alco Standard Corporation. It will also sell most of the elements of its Hawaiian agricultural business unit, C Brewer and Co, to a

management group through a leveraged buyout to a separate transaction. The terms of these agreements are not disclosed, but the company plans to use the proceeds partly to cut debt.

● **WEBER HOLDINGS:** UK Land now holds or has received acceptances for 4.5 million shares (96.96 per cent). It intends to acquire the remainder company.

● **SHANDWICK:** Interim dividend of 1.22p, as indicated in the prospectus. Turnover for the half-year to Jan. 31, 1986, £2.95 million (£2.41 million). Pretax profit £460,000 (£150,000). Earnings per share 5.7p (1.8p).

● **AUTO PRODUCTS:** BBA's offer has so far been accepted for 34.37 million ordinary shares (61.1 per cent).

● **CVD INCORPORATED:** No interim dividend, but the directors expect to increase the payment for the full year, which will be paid next October. Revenues for the half-year to Dec. 1, 1985, \$3.98 million (£2.06 million), against \$2.01 million. Pretax profit \$969,000 (\$692,000). The first half-year has borne a disproportionate amount of annual expenses

● **HANIMEX CORPORATION:** No interim dividend (nil). Sales for the half-year to Dec. 31, 1985, Aus \$477.4 million (£230 million), against Aus \$38.04 million. Profit before tax Aus \$5.99 million (Aus \$3.6 million).

## BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	12½%
Adam & Company	12½%
BCCI	12½%
Citibank Savings	12½%
Consolidated Crds	12½%
Continental Trust	12½%
Co-operative Bank	12½%
C. Hoare & Co	12½%
Nat Westminster	12½%
Lloyds Bank	12½%
Nat Westminster	12½%
Royal Bank of Scotland	12½%
TSB	12½%
Giltbank NA	12½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

## Vinten curbs Tornado investment

Vinten Group has decided not to provide additional funding for its subsidiary's video recorder development contract for the Tornado reconnaissance system.

Vinten Avionic Systems had "encountered further severe technical problems" in trying to achieve the exceptionally demanding performance requirements of the recorders, the group said.

Vinten last year had to provide £814,000 against an expected loss on the fixed-price contract, signed by the management of S Davall and Sons before the company was acquired by Vinten in 1984.

Vinten said it was clear that a further substantial provision would be required if completion of the contract was to be attempted.

## Ransomes up

Ransomes Sims & Jefferies, the Ipswich manufacturer of lawnmowers and farm machinery, increased pretax profits from £5.3 million to just over £7 million last year. The shares responded with a 10p rise to 170p.

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# WHO?

1975 SALES £152m

1975 EARNINGS PER SHARE 1.5p

To be continued tomorrow...



COMMODITIES REVIEW

Sleepless nights far from over for LME traders

Most of London's commodity traders were in their beds...

creely feel the same way, so the scene is set for a battle royal...

Scene is set for a battle royal with exchange in the middle

There are two catches. One is that the "ring out" is for cash settlement...

The other catch is the law. Being deprived of the ability to deliver physical metal...

But will it be this time? Nobody has bothered to tell the staff, a quarter of whom have been given notice...

Buffer stock has debts of £300m and no obvious means of paying

Of more immediate concern to brokers is the buffer stock. It has debts of £300 million...

The clear thing is that the LME, come noon tomorrow, is out of the tin business...

The formula has already been outlined: the LME must have a stronger administration...

The LME and the ITC may have come to the parting of the ways...

Michael Prest

COMPANY NEWS

Clydesdale Bank: Consolidated profit for 1985 was £29.50 million...

Hawker Siddeley Canada: A quarterly dividend of 24 cents is to be paid on April 4...

Malakoff Berhad: Group figures for the six months to December 31 include an interim dividend of 7.5 cents...

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IBM PC XT/FD £2248 ex VAT. IBM PC XT/FD, 10mb hard disk drive, mono display, display printer adaptor, keyboard. London: 01-628 8830

Spectrum software claims off target

Sir Clive Sinclair's claim that his latest computer, the Spectrum 128, will run all the software written for earlier versions of the Spectrum is apparently not quite true.

Purchasers who have upgraded to the new computer from the Spectrum Plus are complaining that a few pieces of software, including the chart topping program Elite, will not run on the new machine.

Sinclair is understandably embarrassed by putting the blame for the confusion on the software firms responsible for the incompatible programs.

Sinclair is hoping to gain a significant part of sales of the 128 Spectrum from owners of older versions upgrading at 30 per cent of home computer sales...

Ready for the take-off

Satellites have consistently remained at the centre of international political debate in recent years. That debate has focused on the commercial future of services offered on satellite, the legal control which will need to be exercised to ensure some semblance of order in this new industry...

Research, predicted a boom in the revenue generated by those satellite services. The survey determined revenue rising to US\$1.5 billion a year by 1995 but the business sector would be the one which would contribute the lion's share of the new revenue.

the Americans, principally in satellite television. The US is "tailored-made for satellites" but not so Europe, says CIT.

THE WEEK

Bill Johnstone Technology Correspondent

will have grown to US\$370 million, which could quadruple five years later. CIT detailed these growth areas:

- Internal corporate communication networks; video and teleconferencing; computer communications; distribution of earth resource pictures for use in weather forecasting and geological surveys; electronic mail and high speed telefacsimile; data bases and the services derived from them; remote/decentralized printing; education, training and information; the distribution of data and audio/video signals.

Games that can fool bosses

By David Guest

Ever since one particular flight simulator computer game became the litmus test of whether a computer was truly compatible with the IBM PC it has been obvious that personal computing at work need not be an overwhelmingly serious business.

the level of the personal computer and so a new generation of recreational software has been developed to disguise the fact that the eager computer user at work is in fact lost in a world of game playing.

to peer into space while giving an appearance of industrious concentration at the computer screen there is a package called Look Busy from a Texas-based company called Fake Software.

Before the days of business PCs it was considered almost fraudulent to play games on a company's computer - the player was after all appropriating machine time for frivolous purposes.

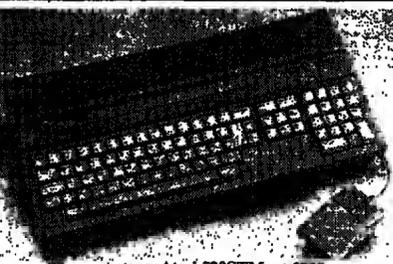
The pioneer of such deceptive computer games in the UK is a West Country firm, Microdeal, where its programs give the user a chance to display a business-like screen in the middle of a game of backgammon at the touch of a single key.

This appears on screen to be a full scale integrated business package working away but actually requiring no attention from the user.

This attitude has moved on in a slightly modified form to

Microdeal admitted, however, that its own staff was banned from using the dummy device at work.

Programs known as desktop organisers can also include games that can quickly be banished from the screen though they tend to be of the more worthy mental stimulation type. But all these games lack the courage of their convictions - encouraging the view that computing is in some strange way a futuristic activity. Where is an executive toy intended to be placed if not on a desk in plain view?



The next stage: Atari 520ST, at £399

Euro launchings setting hot pace

By Geoff Wheelwright

The competition among manufacturers in the high power, small business and home computer markets stepped up this week with the European launches of a series of advanced computers from Atari and Commodore.

Commodore's Amiga, which has become well known for its dazzling array of colour and sound capabilities, is the most expensive of the newcomers at an expected £1500.

This price is likely to include two disc drives, 512k of computer memory and some as yet unspecified software.

Although it admits that it will take some time before the amount of serious software for the Amiga comes anywhere near that of the IBM PC or even Apple's Macintosh, Commodore says that a number of business software packages will be ready for the Amiga when it starts shipping to the UK in June.

An attachment which allows the Amiga to use software written for the IBM PC will be available later in the year.

Atari, meanwhile, announced a series of new and

powerful machines in its ST range - starting at £400 after a hefty last minute price rise from £300.

The 520ST entry level computer, which will have 512k of computer memory, can be plugged into a television set and has sockets for disc drives and printer drive connection. It will also include a mouse controller and a picture-style command system similar to Apple's Macintosh computer.

In another last minute change of mind the company has decided not to launch a version of this model with a built-in computer disc drive. At the top of the range is the £800 Atari 1040STF - which includes one megabyte of computer memory, a built in 720k high-capacity disc drive and black and white high-resolution computer monitor.

While the Atari machine has nowhere near the software base of the Apple offering, and so far cannot book up to the same types of business systems, Atari says it is working hard on remedying both factors.

Compaq: 3 new models!

Compaq Portable II now available in 3 versions: lighter, smaller, sleeker, new keyboard, 80286 8MHz processor, 256k expandable to 4.1 megabytes. Floppy or 10mb hard disk. From £2695. Prices reduced this week by up to £600 on Compaq Portable, Compaq Plus and Compaq Deskpro. Full range in stock.

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COMPUTER HORIZONS/2

# Turning the screw on fraud

A small computer crime squad at New Scotland Yard is so far the only specialist unit in the UK to investigate high technology fraud. Observers say it is already overstretched just trying to handle investigations into computer crimes in the City. Now four-week training courses for small groups of about nine officers are to be introduced at the National Police College in Hampshire for each police force in the country. Investigations into computer fraud are often hampered by the reluctance of companies to admit that crimes have occurred, fearing the effect that publicity might have on the organization's credibility.

GEC Avionics has won a £38 million order to supply computers to the US Air Force and Navy. The company believes the order could mean spin-off business of up to £342 million. It will make 1,600 standard central air data computers, which tell pilots how fast and high they are flying, to be installed in up to 30 types of aircraft. GEC Avionics, based at Rochester, Kent, has now won orders for a total of 3,000 computers for the US forces. The latest contract was gained against five competitors, four of them American.

Ron Howard, a director of the company, said: "It is still very unusual for a British manufacturer to win orders at the heart of the American defence industry. It's a very hard work but it can be done."

## COMPUTER BRIEFING

Amstrad has announced a bigger version of its highly successful budget priced word processor aimed at those who need a larger word processing capacity. The PCW8512 has double the memory, 512k, of the earlier version, two instead of one disc drives and will cost £574. It includes the same word processor, monitor and printer that comes with the first model. With other business software such as financial spreadsheets and databases now becoming available the new computer should increase Amstrad's appeal to small offices and businesses. Sales of the original model have been running at high enough levels that discounts have been virtually impossible to obtain through the Boots chain. It is now selling it complete with a financial spreadsheet for £470.

Sharing ideas will be easier for some Soviet and US scientists conducting joint research projects if the Kremlin approves the first official computer link between the superpowers. The data exchange would allow researchers to bypass distance, time and bureaucratic barriers, said Murray Turoff, a computer scientist at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, who developed the idea. He said informal computer networking began last summer between about 12 US and Soviet scientists in a variety of

fields that led the Russians and some US people to realize this would be a way to not only carry on exchanges, but joint research.

Deutsche Bundespost has announced a nationwide telemetry project that will enable the meter signals to be transmitted digitally without interfering with voice traffic. The project will also allow other uses to be evaluated including announcement systems, emergency alarm systems, and remote control of air conditioning and traffic signals. Network equipment for the project is being supplied by the British firm Racal Milgo. The Bundespost plans to install the system in every local exchange and eventually. The service will cost about £20 for a connection and £1 a month rental. It is similar to British Telecom's Bitstream service that began trials of automatic meter-reading two years ago.

Fujitsu, Japan's top computer group, has denied a report originating in West Germany that it would stop making computers compatible with IBM systems. The Japanese group is the world's leading producer of IBM-compatible systems. It also supplies them to Siemens of Germany and Amdahl of the United States.

The West German report had alleged that Fujitsu was having trouble making IBM-compatibles because of a dispute it had with the US group about software. IBM has accused Fujitsu of pirating its software.

# A new line on the spoken word

By Martin Banks

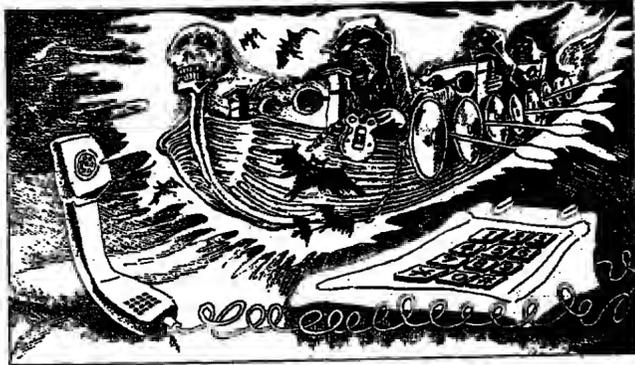
There have been increasing noises recently about translation machines. The Japanese are even said to be developing a telephone that can translate the spoken word. The caller speaks Japanese into one telephone and from out of another, presumably somewhere else in the world, comes spoken English - or vice-versa.

Far-fetched? In the short term, yes. The computer and software needed to cope with not only on-line word translation but also the problems of grammar and syntax that will work with both speech recognition and synthesis has not been built yet. But there is nothing wrong with the theory.

Take the Japanese phone again. The chances are that a translating telephone would be used primarily for business calls. That, by definition, means that the words spoken would be a limited sub-set vocabulary, specifically geared to business needs and terminology.

There are precedents which demonstrate that when a tightly defined and limited vocabulary is used translation can become a relatively simple test.

One of the oldest precedents came from the US tractor



company, Caterpillar. Its tractors sold worldwide, which posed an expensive problem for the company. Translating the essential repair and maintenance manuals into many different languages was both expensive and risky. There was always the danger that, like the archetypal instructions which come with a foreign consumer product, the translation would prove to be incomprehensible.

Caterpillar's solution was to develop a specific English vocabulary geared to maintaining tractors. It found it could get this vocabulary down to about 850 words and it found it cheaper and more efficient to teach non-English speakers this sub-set than to translate the manual.

Such a total number of words may seem small yet it is ideally configured for the needs of computer translation.

Most individuals have a vocabulary of several thousand words yet often get by with just a few hundred in day-to-day life.

In any business environment the vocabulary often gets smaller and, more important, more specific in the meaning of individual words. For example, taking the word credit to have any more than one meaning could make a nonsense of accounting practice.

This means that computer translation systems can become quite feasible. Indeed, working with a well-defined vocabulary geared to a specific business overcomes the major problem of such systems. Translation of individual words is one thing, but the real problem is coping with grammar and syntax.

The different constructions of languages make computer-

based translation systems far more difficult than simply substituting words. Each language would need its own program to cope with their differences.

For example, the construction of French is different from German, where whole sentences are put into one word where the tense, and so the sense, rests in the last syllable.

The all-purpose translation system that can cope with this is a long way off. The business systems, or more specifically a number of different business translation systems, are much more feasible, though they will undoubtedly cause problems and misunderstandings at first.

Expect to see "the ancient torture system up in the sky on a boat" as the result of a computer translating the phrase "ship the stocks by air".

# Church in computer mix-up

Somebody may have been using an office of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco to "bunnet" computers. The diocese bought more than 2,000 computers at special educational discounts from Apple Computer but only 400 ended up in church-run schools and churches, the San Francisco Chronicle reported last week.

The other 1,600 found their way back to retailers in New York city, investigators said. The Rev. William Riley, the archdiocese spokesman, said church officials were "painfully aware" of the situation and "are trying to resolve it."

"We want to pay back what is owed and make amends," he said, adding that the archdiocese already has returned \$57,468 to Apple for a preliminary audit of dealings with Apple.

The Rev. Carl Schipper, superintendent of archdiocese schools, acknowledged that church-bought computers had been resold to non-educational users over the past two-and-a-half years and declined to comment on details. He said steps had been taken to prevent a recurrence.

The Apple attorney Steven Sabbath said the church was co-operating with Apple and the district attorney in the probe.

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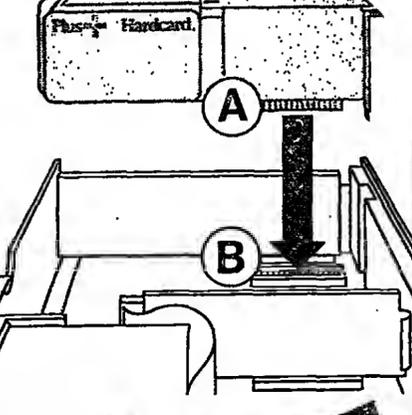
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# Teachers get training for schoolrooms of the future

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent  
Microcomputers have been introduced into English and Welsh classrooms on the cheap. Through a secondary school has, on average 10 micros and Britain is thought to lead the world in the idea of microcomputer use in education, the hardware has been introduced at minimum cost.

Compared with French schools, for example, British schools have a thin spread of micro-computers and many children probably have little contact with them. The Government has spent £20 million on hardware and peripherals and £23 million over five years on the Microelectronics Education Programme, which is being killed at the end of March and which has done invaluable work preparing software for schools and training teachers.

It will be replaced by the Microelectronics Support Unit, with less funding at a much lower level, and with a narrower brief. This unit will not even be in place by April and will probably not function until the autumn, so for a long time there will be little support for teachers and local authorities.

But there is good news in one area of the country: Letchworth, Hertfordshire, where Education 2000, the educational initiative launched in 1983, is proposing to revolutionize how children learn. Central to its thinking is the new technology.

The Letchworth project, designed as the forerunner for others throughout the country, aims essentially to retain all the teachers in the town's six secondary schools. This means that 250 teachers at four comprehensives and two independent boarding schools will join together from September to rethink the curriculum completely.



London Software Studio

only for combining the private and maintaining sectors in this way, but also because it is independent of the State apparatus and trying to innovate on an ambitious scale. So far the project has been promised £1 million over four years so that it can increase the staff in all six schools by about 10 per cent. This will give every member of staff 40 days off over two years for retraining.

Education 2000, launched by a group of dissatisfied educationists to prepare children for life in the 21st century, is worried about the number of children who leave school completely unprepared for the world about them. Its president is Basil de Ferranti, chairman of Ferranti and MEP for Hampshire.

Co-chairmen of the trustees are Sir Bryan Thwaites, former principal of Westfield College, London, and Christopher Wysocki-Wright, chairman of Wrightson-Wood.

The project's director is John Abbott, former head of Alley's school, Stevenage, who has conducted a feasibility study into the secondary school curriculum for Hertfordshire County Council. He says that the level of hardware is crucial to the impact that new technology can make in schools and that it is important to have as many machines as possible.

He proposes that all the 250 teachers in Letchworth are taught word-processing in the next 18 months so that with enough machines word pro-

cessing will become a fundamental skill in the classroom.

Mr Abbott said: "We are moving towards the stage where we are saying, let's put in a number of schools enough word processors for every pupil to have access when they want to do composition work. That would include writing essays, reports and using the word processor for collaborative exercises."

His long-term aim is that there should be one computer to every seven, eight or nine children. He is talking to computer companies about a special package deal for the Letchworth project; once he has chosen a system he hopes to put the machines into a network.

The new technology is being used as a catalyst for discussion about the teacher as a manager of learning rather than as an instructor. With, say, 100 terminals in a school, teaching can be transformed. The teacher can ask the child to go and research material and put it together in a first draft on the word processor. Teacher and child will then discuss the work.

The child may correct, refine and rewrite it until he or she is satisfied enough to have it marked.

Mr Abbott saw this technique working in the US in Princeton, New Jersey, where the children achieved outstanding results. There was one terminal for every nine pupils in a local high school for 14 to 18 year-olds and the result was that the staff set fewer essays, but that the work improved dramatically.

Mr Abbott believes that it will challenge the British emphasis on the constant setting of essays, which are marked and given back when the child is already working on the next essay. It is rare for a pupil to re-do anything and the result is that work produced is not always very good.

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March 11, 1986

A SPECIAL REPORT ON  
DISTRIBUTION SERVICES/1

# On time, from cars to fish fingers

As an army marches on its stomach, much of Great Britain Ltd depends on the efficiency or otherwise of the distribution companies that serve the networks of industry and commerce, ranging from the assembly of cars to the stacking of supermarket shelves.

Moving things around in the most-expeditious manner possible is big business: about £20 billion a year is spent on freighting alone and the growth in distribution services during the past three or four years has been steady as Britain's economic activity has improved.

It can be a matter of delivering chilled food in prime condition for that expanding market or completing the frozen food chain which gets a fish finger to a child's plate in perfect condition. It can mean ensuring that all the components that make up a car get to a factory not too late and, equally important so that stocks are kept to a minimum, not too early. Or it can mean seeing a parcel or letter arrives at a destination when it should.

While the health of the distribution services depends on whether the economy is doing well, it thrives equally on export and import. A cushioning factor is that the retail chain, especially in food, has a level of activity which tends to hold up during times of economic stringency.

Nevertheless, this is an industry of fierce competition

where the weapons of new technologies, from specialized transport to computer controls, are used as the levels of sophistication spiral.

Road transport accounts for about 95 per cent of the movement of freight, with the road transport market valued at £19.2 billion at the last detailed count in 1983. There are, the Freight Transport Association (FTA) estimates, about 500,000 lorries and one million lighter transport vans involved, with an estimated 300,000 jobs.

But British Rail has been increasing the appeal of its freight services by using road transport links to achieve flexible deliveries from rail depots. One cider company which built its own rail siding to exploit the new system saved 25 per cent on its distribution costs, according to British Rail.

While air freighting is, in percentage terms, a small part of the distribution market, it is playing a growing role as the demand for fresh fruit and vegetables, particularly the more exotic varieties, has grown. Air freighting was responsible for chilled lamb from New Zealand to Britain in increasing quantities.

If all forms of transportation, including the movement of fuels and waterborne transport, are taken into account, total spending is more than £40 billion a year. Judged by tonnages transported over distance — the tonnes-kilometres criterion which measures ac-



Checking in: Foreman Dave Turner, left, and Ray Spencer at the SPD Consortium warehouse at Yate near Bristol

tual work done — road systems account for about 60 per cent of the market, rail 9 per cent, waterborne transport just over 25 per cent and pipelines about 6 per cent.

On road transport, the index of tonnes-kilometres dropped from 107 in 1979 to 97 the following year but has since climbed to an estimated 110 in 1984, according to ICC Business Ratios. There was

**Big changes have led to a shift in demand**

an estimated easing to 107 in early 1985.

Owner operators running up to five vehicles still account for 70 per cent of goods vehicles on the road.

The trend for years has been to carry more goods on fewer vehicles as articulated lorries up to 38 tonnes have matched the needs of the fast-changing retailing sector. The index of carryings by articulated vehicles has risen from 100 in 1977 to 118 in 1985.

It is the retailing revolution that has probably been the

biggest factor behind distribution's own revolution although the sophistication increasingly demanded by the vehicle manufacturers must not be close.

At one time it was the food and grocery manufacturers that generated demand and delivered to the retailer. The upsurge of the big chains has led to the retailer creating demand thus dictating the supply system and shifting distribution in central warehouses, either owned by the retailer or run for them by contractors. It is estimated that most big multiples control distribution centrally for between 60 and 80 per cent of their sales volume and this trend is still accelerating.

The same progress bringing in similar structural changes is now being seen in other markets such as hardware and DIY, furniture, domestic electrical appliances from washing machines to television sets, toy retailing and also pharmaceuticals.

What could put more lighter vans on the road is the new trend to squeeze the bigger trucks out of city and town centres. It will mean more depots out of town to break

loads down for delivery by smaller vehicles. That could drive up costs to be reflected, inevitably, in prices. It is a moot point whether a single delivery by one large truck to a big in-town store is more disruptive than multiple deliveries by a fleet of smaller vehicles carrying the same amount of goods.

In road freighting many smaller companies, with less

**Deliveries at weekend to meet family needs**

than five vehicles, are finding it increasingly difficult to make a profit, according to Key Note, the market analysis\*. But Key Note believes the parcels and small loads traffic still has considerable growth potential although increased competition could mean lower prices.

In its latest report\*\* on major road hauliers ICC Business Ratios found some of the companies with the higher profits margins dealt with non-bulk consignments. They include TNT Road Freight

UK, a part of Australia's Thomas Nationwide Transport, George White, which belongs to Associated Newspapers and John Forman, a P & O subsidiary.

ICC forecasts a further revival in haulier's fortunes, possibly with sales growth exceeding 10 per cent. Demand for services is expected to remain high.

As the prospect grows of armchair shopping, using interactive links to order goods displayed on television, a harbinger of what the public can expect is the delivery service offered by Homespeed, a venture by Pickfords Removals, part of the National Freight Consortium.

Homespeed's two-man teams deliver items such as furniture and electrical appliances at times, including evenings and weekends, to meet family needs.

**Derek Harris**  
Industrial Editor

\* Road Haulage, Key Note, £79.  
\*\* Road Hauliers (Major): ICC Business Ratios, £157. Both available from 28-42 Banner Street, London EC1Y 8QE.

# Going faster on the road

The great days of the train, when the railways were seen as the natural means of moving goods around the country, have long gone. The greater flexibility of road transport, helped by an ever expanding and improved road network, has meant that it now accounts for nearly two-thirds of all freight movements.

About three-quarters of that traffic is carried by manufacturers' wholesalers and retailers' vehicle fleets. The so-called third party distribution network ranges from thousands of one man operations to the giant National Freight Consortium, formerly the National Freight Corporation, which is now owned by the employees and one of the great privatization successes.

The NFC operates 13,000 vehicles from more than 700 locations in the UK and overseas, and in 1984 its turnover was more than £562 million. It includes such household names as British Road Services and Pickfords.

Its BRS operations have recently been merged with those of the SPD group, which it acquired from Unilever last year. SPD specializes in the high street distribution of consumer goods, providing a common carrier for compatible products from different manufacturers destined for the same location.

Every year it makes more than two million deliveries to 125,000 retailers, wholesalers, caterers, factories and institutions, and its customers include Whitbread, Van de Berghs, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries and Beefeater Inns. It also has management contracts with Kellogg's, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Mars.

SPD accounts for about nine-tenths of the NFC turnover; the remainder is represented by smaller subsidiaries such as Carrycare, which specializes in consumer goods that need extra careful handling.

It claims to have been the first to develop effective protective packing, handling,

storage and distribution methods.

Another subsidiary, GDS, specializes in distribution services to the confectionery industry. Formerly the transport division of Geo Bassett Ltd, it now acts as a common carrier, delivering 3,000 different products to 40,000 customer outlets.

Distribution costs are now estimated to account for up to 25 per cent of the purchase price of a product and consequently more and more attention is being paid to potential savings. The formation of the Institute of Physical Distribution Management reflects the increasing use of specialist companies that can advise manufacturers and retailers on the most cost-effective methods.

Manufacturers' own transport fleets have correspondingly declined, one reason being that the high turnover of large supermarkets has made traditional distribution methods, with a separate vehicle from each supply source, impractical in terms of unloading, queueing and waiting.

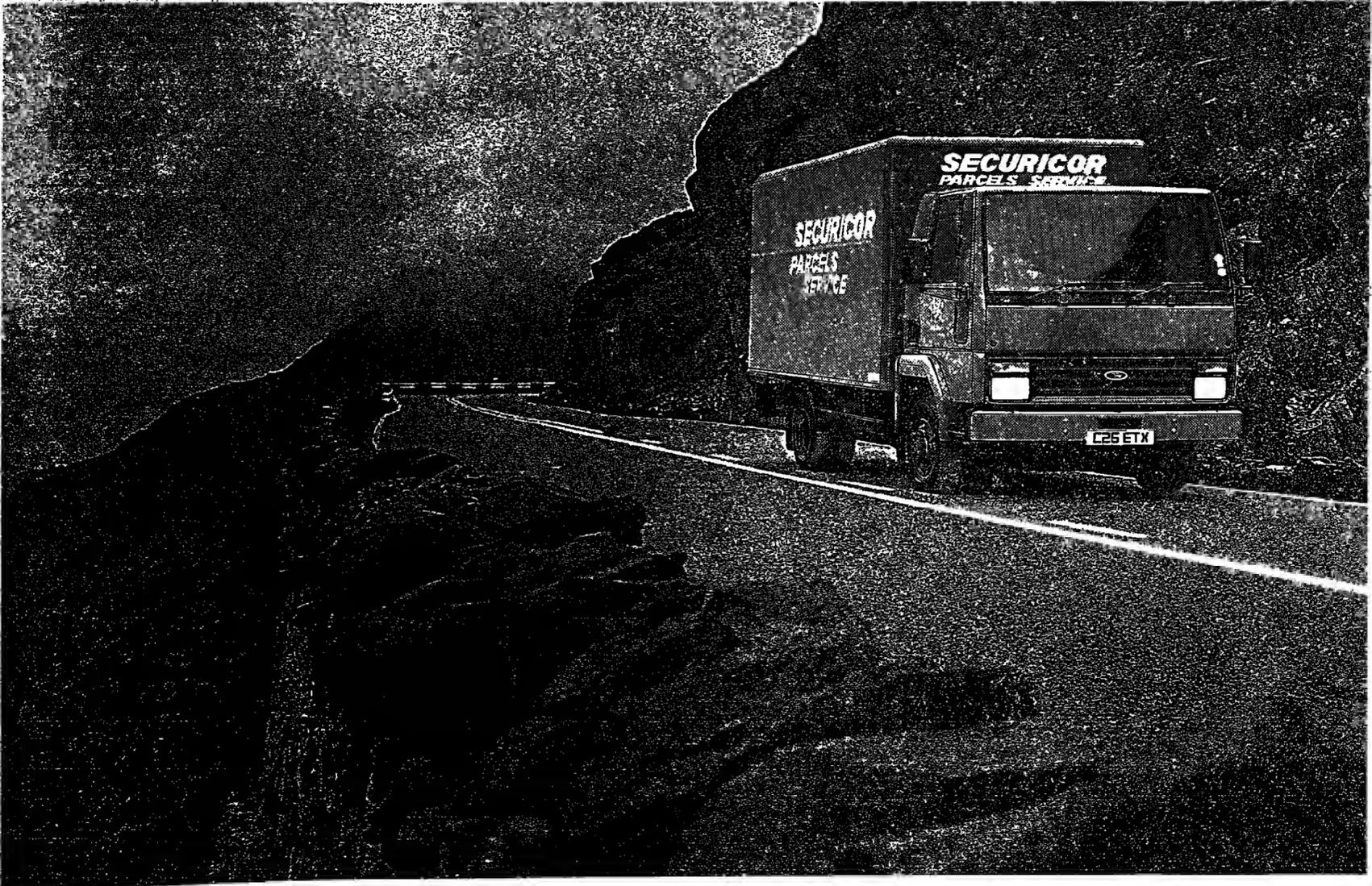
The obvious solution was to concentrate deliveries from all suppliers into a central or regional warehouse so that deliveries could be coordinated. This in turn has freed more retail store space for display and sales.

The jargon phrase for third party involvement is physical distribution management (PDM). National Carriers Contract Services, another part of the NFC group, offers its customers PDM "packages", whereby it takes full responsibility for the whole distribution process.

Among the company's principal customers are Boots, Morphy Richards and BMW.

The biggest incentive to the growth of road distribution services has of course been the expansion of the motorway network, from the completion of the M1 in 1959 to the near-completion of the M25 London orbital route.

**John Young**



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In the main, Securicor run 7.5 and 16 tonne Cargos, and they're adding the new Cargo Cummins 10 litre.

"We choose every truck on merit," says Ron. "We make regular tests on competitive

vehicles, and in peak periods we hire in other trucks, which gives us a chance to get a good look at them.

But I don't think there's a better truck anywhere than a Cargo."



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**Supermarkets set the pace**



David Quarby: A better service at Sainsbury

Distribution services can no longer be taken for granted, merely to be delegated to a transport manager. They are taking up the time increasingly of directors in a company, including managing directors, according to the Freight Transport Association (FTA).

This is because companies have become increasingly aware that with an average 12 to 13 per cent and possibly as much as 20 per cent or more of a product's purchase price being accounted for by distribution costs the need for efficiency is crucial and the scope for savings substantial.

It is the big supermarket chains which mostly have moved furthest in refining distribution systems. In searching for savings, many have dropped the old systems of suppliers delivering to stores and have set up their own centralized depots where the needs of a store are made up.

J Sainsbury, Britain's biggest grocer, has steadily moved to the position where 80 per cent of goods sold through its shops are delivered through its own depot network.

David Quarby, the board director responsible for distribution at Sainsbury, said: "At one time 10 suppliers would have been sending 10 vehicles to drop at one store what we now send out in one vehicle. It is far more efficient, enabling us to manage and control our stocks more tightly, to carry out seasonal planning and to respond far more quickly to unexpected needs and to promotions."

Tesco Stores, with 400 outlets of which 110 are supermarkets, has a 24-hour stock replenishment system under which shelf replenishment needs are notified overnight to depots which then supply what is necessary the next day. So far all wines and spirits are on the system and 65 per cent of all food lines. Overall about 65 per cent of merchandise goes through the central warehousing system leaving scope for other supplies going direct from suppliers. Exact requirements are fed to suppliers delivering direct.

The increasing number of

Distribution Services, believes relatively inexpensive microcomputers and handheld terminals will increasingly make it possible to raise general standards of warehousekeeping to the advantage of smaller companies.

Management and organization is another area of opportunity, according to Mr Stanton. While much of the initiative in distribution has passed to retailers their interests are necessarily narrow and specific. So for innovation the industry would need to look to the transport hirers, the sector dominated by small operators.

Mr Stanton told a recent FTA conference on distribution: "I do not believe that big is necessarily beautiful or indeed profitable but we do need organizations of adequate size to finance and manage technological innovation. We must be able to develop young managers skilled in modern techniques."

Courses in distributed management at universities and polytechnics should be broadened, he urged. Equally, the industry had to be prepared to enhance the status of distribution management so young managers had the chance of accelerated business experience.

**A rapid change in the air**

The air-freight industry is going through a period of rapid change brought about by the gradual extension of the use of wide-bodied aircraft, by fluctuations in world currency rates leading multinational corporations to move their manufacturing bases around, and by the startling success of the express parcels industry.

With their huge belly-hold cargo capacity (a Tristar holds 7.5 tonnes of freight as well as a full passenger load) a BAC Super 1-11 less than a tonne) regular scheduled passenger flights can now handle large items which used to have to sit around waiting for enough other cargo to justify the use of a freighter. Today, 83 per cent of air cargo travels on scheduled services.

The total UK throughput of air-freight for 1985 was about 850,000 tonnes. Heathrow saw more than 529,000 tonnes of that, with an estimated value of around £2.25 billion.

British Airways, with one of the largest worldwide networks in the industry, sees the market developing well over the next few years.

"We now earn more than £1 million in freight revenues in 35 countries," says Geoff Bridges, the cargo manager. "The most important aspects are simplicity, speed, and reliability. Price is becoming an increasingly marginal consideration."

For British Caledonian, air cargo is also important. Some 15 per cent of the airline's corporate turnover is dependant on the talents of David Brooksbank and his team. During 1985 they handled more than 54,000 tonnes of freight through their Gatwick base, as well as 10,000 tonnes of mail, from the Post Office and their overseas counterparts.

The dramatic growth of the express parcels market has, inevitably, taken some traffic away from air-freight.

The airlines are aware that they have to improve their marketing and upgrade their speed. It is a fact that, in the past, items for air-freight spent an astonishing 92 per cent of their transit times sitting on the ground. That is changing rapidly. Ironically, speed within Europe has been substantially improved by using the roads and ferries.

Overnight movements across European frontiers means less delays and gives faster service. Now, less than 40 per cent of inter-European airfreight actually gets airborne.

The need to invest in newer, better ground-handling is emphasized by BA who are putting £7 million into their Heathrow facilities to improve speed on the ground.

The need to invest in newer, better ground-handling is emphasized by BA who are putting £7 million into their Heathrow facilities to improve speed on the ground.

Peter Smith

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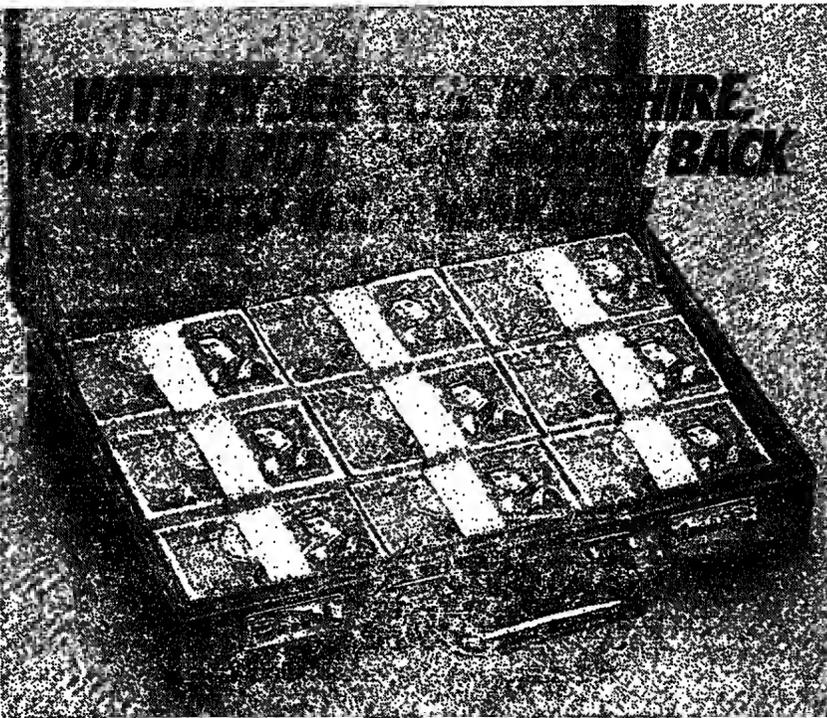


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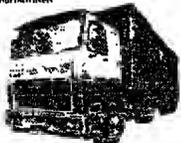
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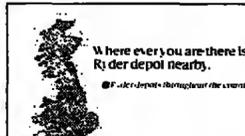


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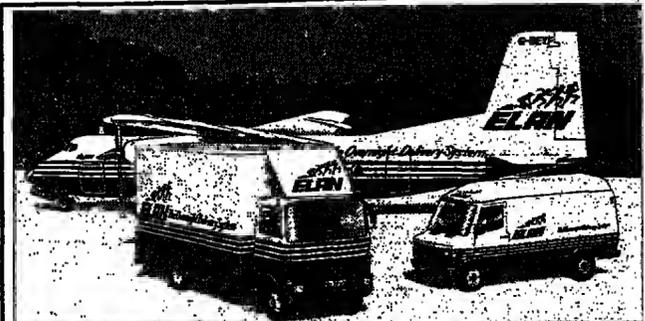


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CRICKET: THE NEED FOR ONE MAN'S COURAGE AND ANOTHER'S INSPIRATION

England count on Botham and Willey for restoration

From John Willcock, Cricket Correspondent, Trinidad

"To sum it up," said David Gower here yesterday, "we've somehow got to get through tomorrow morning, perhaps losing only one wicket. We are all of the same thinking. The match can still be won."

Scoreboard

Table with columns for England and West Indies scores, batsmen, and bowling figures.

day of the second Test match. With seven wickets standing England are 55 runs behind and the West Indian fast bowlers will be fresh for the fray.

Over there and over the top

Wouldn't it be nice if I was wrong? I'm so much an Ian Botham fan, you see. But it seems from this Test match which, so far, has been a personal disaster for Botham, that the man has changed.

When Botham was a lad of 20 he could genuinely live it up all night, skive off practice and then go out and take a handful of wickets. But he is an old hand now, coming to the end of his career, and you cannot rely on strength and eye and inspiration at the age of 30. You need guile, you need intelligence.

Botham's batting has similarly been dreadful so far. He seems incapable of settling down at the crease; he seems only to think in terms of the career 20. That splendid 18 he scored in seven balls against Australia last summer was terrific and right in the context of that game; but that seems now to be his idea of the perfect innings.

It is as if he believes all the hype and nonsense of his agent, Tim Hudson: as if he truly sees himself as "a great British hero". He struts on to the stage as a star, no longer as a professional sportsman. As the scriptwriter has written in his sixties and his wickets and his air-punching celebrations, and all he has to do is look cool and go through the motions.

ATHLETICS

Budd gives her word

Zola Budd has written to the Women's AAA saying that she still wishes to compete for England at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh this summer and that she will fulfil all the necessary requirements to do so (Pat Butcher writes).

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for various sports: Wales Conference, Montreal Can, Chicago Hawks, etc.



On guard: Lamb, over the fighter, takes evasive action

thing approaching 200 to win, which might well exercise them, something special will probably be needed from Botham, whose Caribbean record is not at all encouraging. He has played 21 first-class innings in the West Indies now and his highest score is 40.

There are those who believe Botham needs dropping from the Test side, because of the way he is bowling and the fact that he is not getting the runs he should. His last 12.4 overs on the ground here have gone for 115 runs, and even Gower, who finds him fairly unbidable I am afraid, must know that the time has come to give Ellison, not Botham, the new ball.

Botham simply wastes it by bowling so short, usually with two long legs as though every-

Century by Marsh not enough

New Plymouth (Reuter) — The Australians' match against New Zealand's Central Districts finished in a draw yesterday when the hosts finished the day on 149 for five.

The Australians had earlier reached a total of 305 in their second innings, their opening batsman, Marsh, scoring 101.

Marsh's century was not enough to give the Australians a win as New Zealand's batsmen showed great resilience.

Botham has a way of defying his critics and I would love to be defied today. But what real hope can one hold out for a struttingly self-conscious superstar with his head in a Hollywood? Botham might go on to become a star of the silver screen. I can readily believe it. Indeed, right now, I can believe, if I might steal a line from the play *Pygmalion*, that Mickey Mouse wears an Ian Botham watch.

YACHTING

Winds delay leaders

Light winds continued to slow the leading Whitbread yachts yesterday as they closed on the finish of the third stage of the Sound-the-world race, delaying their expected arrival in Punta Del Este until tomorrow (Barry Pickthall writes). A tense battle is developing for the overall handicap lead.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing various sports fixtures: Football, Rugby Union, Rugby League, etc.

Bath's luck is unchanged as they are drawn away again

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Bath, the John Player Special Cup holders, must travel to Glasgow for this season's semi-final round but they do not yet know where their opponents, drawn yesterday by Alan Grimstead, the Rugby Football Union's senior vice-president, will be either Harlequins or Leicester, who play their delayed quarter-final at the Stoop Memorial Ground on Saturday week.

The other semi-final is even more confused: Nottingham, Wasps or Blackheath will play the winners of the quarter-final between London Scottish and Gloucester, also due on Saturday week. The quarter-final between Blackheath and Wasps will not be staged until Saturday week and the subsequent quarter-final against Nottingham will be played over the Easter holiday period, probably on March 29.

Bath have been away in their three cup games this season, at Orrell, Moseley and London Welsh, before becoming the first semi-finalists to be known. Last season, before their successful defence against the Welsh at Twickenham, they were away at Sale and Gloucester. "I would have been nice to be at home for the semi-final," says Clive Howard, the Bath secretary, said yesterday, "mindful also no doubt of missed bank takings in the recent bad weather." But at least it still opens the way for a Gloucester-Bath cup final which is something the West Country is hoping for.

Several clubs will hope to dispute that, not least the Scottish, who will be hoping to reverse a 37-13 drubbing sustained against Gloucester in January, and Leicester, who conceded 40 points to Bath on their own ground in September. The demands of the cup have had their effect upon the selection of the London team which will play Paris in the annual encounter at the Jean Bouin Stadium in Paris this Saturday. Cooke, the Harlequins flanker, would normally be in the team but Harlequins will be making final dispositions for the match against Leicester and the position remains open.

It is hoped that the two sides will meet on the morning of the international between England and France. Wasps dominate London's selection since their scheduled opponents this week are US Portmouth but it is nice to see that Cheval, the Askeans No. 8, finds a place as his reward for some excellent displays for Kent, the county finalists this season.

Late tests for Keyes and Kiernan

By George Ace

A decision on the fitness of Keyes, the Ireland stand-off half, and Kiernan, the centre, for the game against Scotland on Saturday at Lansdowne Road may be taken until the Irish training session in Dublin on Thursday. Both will be examined in Cork tomorrow, but unless the diagnosis proves conclusive the players will be asked to travel to Dublin on Thursday morning.

Keyes has a 50-50 chance of recovering from a hamstring injury. Kiernan is more doubtful with a groin strain. Jim Donaldson, the chairman of selectors, said: "Both John Hewitt and the Ulster out-half, Ian Brown, will join the squad in Dublin on Thursday morning. If Keyes is unfit Brown will be on the bench as a replacement for Tony Ward, and Hewitt will take over in the centre from Kiernan."

BADMINTON

Call for Downey's dismissal

By Richard Eaton

Leading players have asked for the removal of Jake Downey as England manager in a letter to the chairman of the Badminton Association, Graham Axford. They hope to collect more signatures during the forthcoming championships at Wembley this week.

So far the names include Nora Perry and Martin Dew, leading doubles players whom Mr Downey decided not to select for the Thomas Uber world team championships because they were not available to travel with the team; Helen Troke, the European champion, who is angry because she has not been selected for doubles in Sweden next month; and Steve Baddeley and Nick Yates, the top men's singles players.

This step, which recalls an occasion in 1978 when players pressed to have Judy Hashman removed from the same role, will come as a surprise to few people close to the game, although Mr Downey, who has been in office for less than six months, said in a BBC radio interview two days ago that his relationship with players was excellent.

In their letter the players say: "We believe that Mr Downey should be removed from the position of England team manager. There is at present a growing undercurrent of discontent and frustration among many of England's top players to the extent that Mr Downey no longer carries their support or confidence."

There is a great concern that the relationships between the Badminton Association of England and foreign associations are deteriorating rapidly; meanwhile members of the badminton Press are disillusioned by a lack of co-operation.

MOTOR RACING

Williams improves

Marseille. (AP) — Frank Williams, the Grand Prix team owner, but the players' and directors' whooped with joy yesterday when they heard the draw on breakfast television. Their home game against a struggling first division club, Northern, or the second division club Bramley, gives them a golden opportunity to reach the semi-finals after many years in the cup wilderness. They earned their luck by a splendid performance on Sunday, in which their pack took on a mastered a fierce onslaught from the ruthless Warrington forwards.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Big two steer clear of one another

By Keith Macklin

The mouth-watering prospect of a Cup winner's Challenge Cup final at Wembley on May 3 was set up yesterday when Wigan and Hull Kingston Rovers were given home draws in the quarter-finals of the Silk Cup Challenge Cup. No doubt Leigh, the second division pacemakers, and Castleford will have other ideas, but such are the current power and confidence of the two top sides that semi-final places seem assured.

Other clubs who will dispute the right of Wigan, the holders, and Rovers to another Wembley appearance are Widnes, Leeds and Oldham. Widnes and Leeds will be sick and tired of each other after next weekend, for their tie at Naughton Park will be the third consecutive match between the two sides. During the last two weeks they have met in championship games, each team winning its home match.

OTHER SPORT

RUSSIAN SPORT

BADMINTON: Yonex All-England Open Championships: Qualifying round (at Watford LC). RACHNETS: Russian Open (at Queen's Club, West Kensington).

POOLING FORECAST

by Paul Newman

Sports commentary

A sharp word in the ear of Sharpe

They gave David Sharpe the man of the match award at Oxford for his victory in the 1,000 metres against the United States. They should have been giving him a quiet, friendly warning or at least Jimmy Hedley, his coach, should have done.

Sharpe is a splendid newcomer to the international scene. His time of 2min 20.56sec is less than two seconds outside Sebastian Coe's world indoor best time. He will be challenging selection in the 800 metres for the Commonwealth and European meetings. Yet his desperate lunge to get his chest in front of Ray Brown, of the US, drilling as it was for the crowd, was the culmination of tactics that were unwise and risky, if not foolish. It will have told Sharpe little about his racing ability other than to confirm his overall potential.

For much of the race he looked along at the back, which was the position in which he became out of touch and was eliminated in his heat in the European indoor championships. He was not helping to shape the race, was not closely in touch with anyone who might have made a sudden surge and was therefore not wholly in command of the expediency of his own effort.

He would not have won had not Brown continued to fade after Sharpe's late acceleration from the back had spent itself. Hanging off the back of the field is not intelligent, but lazy, if not irritatingly demonstrated to Coe in Moscow. Sharpe, who has a fine future, needs to get more from his races than pleasing the crowd.

Coe is closing in on the 5,000m

It is three years since Coe last ran a personal best, indoors or outdoors, with that 1,000 world best in Oslo, so it was satisfying for him, in his thirtieth year, to produce another in Saturday's 3,000. Therein lies the making of a possible problem, though not one at which he will complain.

Coe recently admitted, in a university lecture, that fear of defeat is for him a stronger motive force than desire for victory. Six years on, Moscow still rankles, as does defeat in Athens two years later. This is part, at least subconsciously, of his incentive for possibly going for the two-lap medal in Stuttgart this year. Coe having admitted to O'reit in Los Angeles that "we're getting too old for this!"

His winning time of 7min 54.32sec, achieved after bursting past Dave Lewis on the last lap, did two things for him. "It confirmed that I can mix it with the long-distance guys and still retain my two or four-lap finishing speed," he said. "The 5,000 is now not that far away."

If the training goes satisfactorily over the next three months he might just possibly, he concedes, consider the 5,000 for Stuttgart, though he knows there is a substantial difference between a single race in, say, Oslo, and three back-to-back in a championship. And that elusive milestone, the 800, still tauntfully beckons.

Howell makes his Olympic peace

Denis Howell has returned from the meeting of summer sports federations in Rome, having made his peace with Horst Dassler after the criticism of Adidas in the CCRP inquiry into sponsorship — which is important for Birmingham's Olympic bid because of the influence which Dassler carries. Howell told him he had no specific objection to Adidas, who may well be without rival, but that marketing contracts should always be open to tender.

Howell has pointed out to Dassler, and to Juan Samaranch, that the half-Adidas owned ISI's marketing contract on behalf of the national Olympic committee, which expires after Seoul, will leave a gap of more than a year before the IOC can agree to a new world-wide deal, during which time the successful city will itself be obliged to be making financial commitments.

Brisbane's candidacy, incidentally, was thrown into confusion when Fritz Widmer, general secretary of the International Equestrian Federation, stated in Rome that current Australian quarantine regulations made their own attendance impossible. The field is narrowing.

ROWING

Oxford lose their Head

By Jim Railton

With three weeks to go before the Boat Race on March 29, Oxford University lost their Reading Head of the River title by nine seconds to London University on Saturday (Jim Railton writes). The university had made big positional changes in their crew last week and brought in Graham Jones, the Australian international, for the fourth year running.

Oxford have a hard week ahead of them under Steve Riley, their coach, at Fingboe over next week, being handed over next week to Daniel Topolski, the Tideway veteran. The last two weeks should be full of interest, with no doubt a little gamesmanship. Bruce Philp, the Oxford president, is more or less even.

David Miller

Chief Sports Correspondent

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Palmer's his way after poor results' and 'astounding double by Wasps'.

BASKETBALL

Palmer on his way after poor results

By Nicholas Harling

Denny Palmer, the coach who took Portsmouth to the third of three trophies in his first season but failed to win any of them, has resigned. Palmer's decision came in the aftermath of Portsmouth's 95-90 home defeat by Birmingham Bulls in Friday's decisive Carlsberg National Championship quarter-final play-off which left the club without a Wembley place at the finals the weekend after next.

Alan Cunningham, the American player dispensed with by Palmer earlier in the season because he had more than his quota of Americans, takes over temporarily.

Portsmouth's failure to qualify meant no vindication for the huge outlay by the club's chairman, John Deacon, on what amounted to an entirely new team purchased in the close season. It was after Deacon bought up the franchise of Telford and moved the Midlands club to the south coast following liquidation that 10 new players arrived with the best contracts in the country.

Under Palmer, who had, according to him, "unquestionably been the best coaching job in Great Britain", the team ultimately proved that there was truth in the maxim that money does not necessarily buy success.

The team flourished at first, remaining unbeaten for the first three months of the season, but defeat in the Prudential National Cup semi-final against Team Polycell Kingston was followed by six league reverses and a deterioration in the relationship between Palmer and his players.

Palmer, who was very much the man who had his own strong feelings about how he wanted to play. The former coach of Crystal Palace who reached the European quarter-finals under him, Palmer, aged 36, from Detroit, is uncertain whether he will stay in coaching, although he does know he wants to move back to London.

"I haven't been a happy man in the past few months," he admitted. "I'm very sad I wasn't able to do a better job. I let myself down. I didn't do as well as I could have done. Maybe I was too friendly with some of the players and that affected my judgement at times. But I was not happy with the kind of older players who were players; they didn't mix as well as I hoped they would."

Portsmouth probably contributed to their own failure by appointing both at Wednesday's second leg with Birmingham, which they lost 3-1, and the Wembley tickets were on sale for their supporters.

RACING: HENDERSON'S BRILLIANT SIX-YEAR-OLD SHOULD SILENCE DETRACTORS BY RETAINING HURDLES CROWN

See You Then to prove true champion

Injury puts Barton out of the Festival

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

See You Then, the impressive winner of the Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham 12 months ago, is napped to retain his title there today. Although some will find his current cramped odds field, the fact is that he does appear head and shoulders above the rest. Nicky Henderson, the trainer, maintains that See You Then was given insufficient credit last year and I know that he has set his heart on making his detractors eat humble pie.

Those who harboured doubts surely had cause to think again earlier this year when See You Then made his belated seasonal debut at Sandown. I was struck by the ease with which he raced and jumped at the time and even more impressed after I had played the film of the race through again. To me it was a performance which had the hallmark of excellence stamped all over it. From that moment I had no intention of looking elsewhere for the winner this year.

Because of the freeze-up we have been unable to appreciate the opposition, with the exception of Kaslin, who won in Ireland and was then disqualified. Admirable horse though Nicky Vigors's six-year-old is, the fact remains he was beaten by both Corporal Clinger and Aonach at Cheltenham and Kempton earlier in the season and I still regard See You Then as the more likely to bring the hurdler's crown back to Lambourn again.

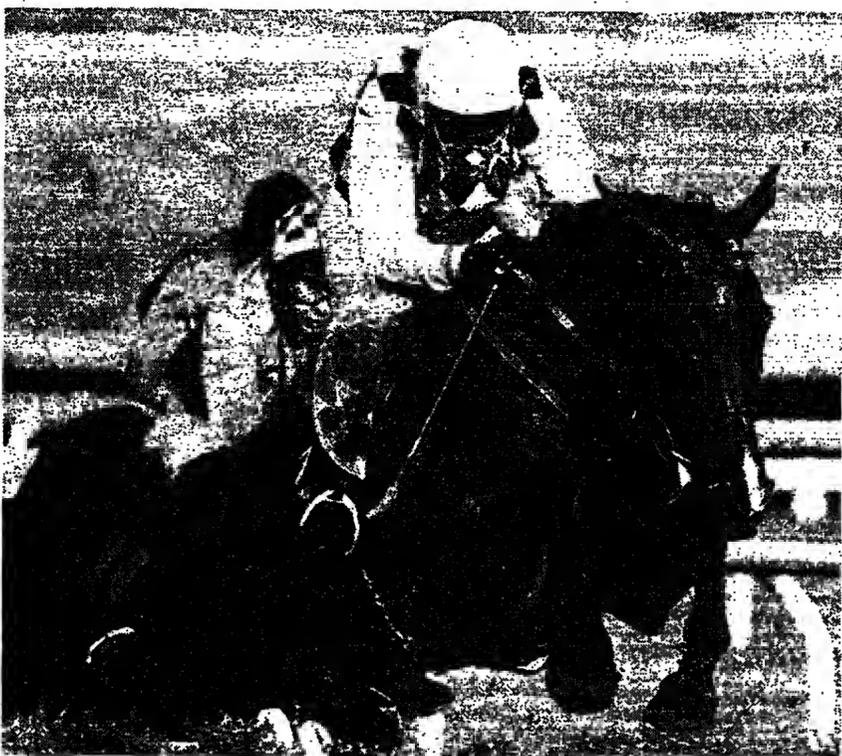
The up to date news of See You Then is very encouraging. Henderson waited until Sunday to make sure that the front had come out of the ground before giving him his first bit of fast work on grass for four weeks. Apparently he went like a bomb with First Bout, his other runner in the field. So in my opinion the stage looks set for a repeat of last year when he left Robin Wonder, Stans Pride and Gaye Brief trailing in his wake coming up the hill.

Corporal Clinger, who won his first two races of the season at Cheltenham before being beaten by Stans Pride in his third, should be the main threat to See You Then if his trainer, Martin Pipe, is right in his assertion that he did not show his true form last time out. Whatever the circumstances, Corporal Clinger was still far from disgraced that day because he was attempting to give 9lb to the mare who was third in the Champion last year. Now he will be meeting her on 4lb better terms and by all accounts he too is on song.

Earlier in the season Corporal Clinger had easily disposed of the likes of last year's Triumph Hurdle winner, First Bout, Kaslin and Bird. The latter who was champion in 1983, has a point to prove in the opinion of his trainer, Mercy Rimell, who refutes the suggestion that there is anything wrong with her horse's mentality or courage. Be that as it may, Gaye Brief still does not look the force he was. At Kempton on Boxing Day, for instance, he was beaten by the time he fell at the start.

True to modern tradition, the Festival will start with the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle, a race that the Irish tend to make a meal of. Eight times in the last 11 years the winner has been trained in the Emerald Isle and with Saturday's Chepstow winner, Canute Express, Deep Idol, Knockelly Castle, Weather The Storm and Shannon Spray all standing their ground they certainly have a lot going for them again.

In selecting Knockelly Castle I am acutely aware that I am flying in the face of what the form book says because he was beaten by both Deep Idol and Shannon Spray at Thurles last month. However, Irish opinion which I value tells me that Knockelly Castle did not run up to his best that day and that we should be prepared for a better performance this time. In which case he will be hard to beat because of his convincing winner of his previous race at Leopardstown.



See You Then on his way to a devastating victory in last year's Champion Hurdle

Joe's nice horse to all the deep end. Time alone will tell whether he is right. While admitting to be one of Mid-nights I hope to see Bertin remain unbeaten over fences by winning the Arke Challenge Trophy. Nick Gaselee's seven-year-old, who runs best when fresh, looked a picture of health and fitness when I saw him out at exercise recently. Music Be Magic, from Gordon Richards's in-form stable, could be more of a threat than Desert Orchid, who has over-

found Cheltenham a happy hunting ground. Glyde Court will be attempting to win the Kim Muir Challenge Cup for the second time in as many years, but as Fred Winter's horses may need a race after their enforced lay-off - they were inoculated after a virus had played havoc with the stable during the winter - I prefer Broomy Bank, the winner of the race two years ago. I am led to believe that Broomy Bank looks a picture.

Gold, who impressed me enormously when winning at Haydock in January. For her own distance is too far. Earlier I hope to see Bertin remain unbeaten over fences by winning the Arke Challenge Trophy. Nick Gaselee's seven-year-old, who runs best when fresh, looked a picture of health and fitness when I saw him out at exercise recently. Music Be Magic, from Gordon Richards's in-form stable, could be more of a threat than Desert Orchid, who has over-

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Fate dealt Paul Barton a cruel blow on Saturday and the 32-year-old jockey will miss the Cheltenham Festival for the first time in his career. Barton's mount, Angel Barton, fell at the sixth fence in the Bech Open Novices' Chase at Sandown Park, but he escaped injury, only to be trodden on by another of the runners.

Initially, he thought his leg was only bruised, but on Sunday he experienced pain and yesterday morning that pain became intense. Following X-ray examination Barton was found to have a tiny crack in one of the bones in his leg.

"I will not have to have my leg in plaster, but must return to hospital this evening to have the leg strapped up," Barton said. "I am bitterly disappointed at missing the Festival, but hope to be back in 10 days."

Barton's strongly-fancied mount in the opening race of the three-day meeting, the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novices' Hurdle, will now be ridden by Peter Scudamore. Angel Condro Jun, who was trampled by a horse after he almost fell during a race at Aqueod on Saturday, has undergone surgery for a cracked liver. A New York University Medical Centre spokesman said that Condro, for many years one of America's leading jockeys, was in a serious but stable condition.

Condro's mount, High-falutin, fell rounding the clubhouse turn during the first race. After a few horses avoided Condro, Nolle Pros stepped on the Puerto Rican jockey. "He'll be in a surgical intensive care unit for the next three days, which is standard," the hospital spokeswoman said.

There were 14 four-day declarations for the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup. They are: Castle Andrea (-), Combe Ditch (C Brown), Cootradale (S Shilton), Cyrenaia (A Brown), Earls Brig (P Tuck), Forgive 'o' Forget (M Dwyer), Observe (-), Rainbow Warrior (-), Right-hand Man (-), Ruo And Skip (S Smith Eccles), Voo Trapp (R Coney), Wayward Lad (C Bradley), Welcome (R Rowe), Dawn Run (J O'Neill).

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106 2610 GLASSBOROUGH (G) (Manning) A Gargery (nr)
107 2611 CHAMBERLAIN (G) (J. J. Jones) J. H. Stone 6-11-8
108 2613 CLEARLY BUST (G) (C. Longman) M. J. T. 6-11-8
109 2614 COTTAGE ROYAL (G) (W. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
110 2615 THE MILLER (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
111 2616 DAN THE MILLER (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
112 2617 DAN THE MILLER (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
113 2618 DAN THE MILLER (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
114 2619 DAN THE MILLER (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
115 2620 DAN THE MILLER (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
116 2621 DAN THE MILLER (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
117 2622 DAN THE MILLER (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
118 2623 DAN THE MILLER (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
119 2624 DAN THE MILLER (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
120 2625 DAN THE MILLER (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8

ICE HOCKEY

A stinging double by Wasps

By a Correspondent

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AYR RESULTS

Going: good

2.30 (2m) 2.15, 2.50, 3.30(BBC2) 4.5

2.30 YARM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£755.2m) (21 runners)

- 1 14230 KARENA PLASTICS (G) (C. Manning) T. Cunningham
2 10214F SHERIDAN (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T.
3 10214F SHERIDAN (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T.
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9 10214F SHERIDAN (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T.
10 10214F SHERIDAN (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T.

2.50 WATERFORD CRYSTAL STAYERS HURDLE (Grade 1: £22,200.2m) (19)

- 401 2626 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
402 2627 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
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409 2634 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
410 2635 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8

4.40 KIM MUIR MEMORIAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (amateurs: £1,155.3m) (20)

- 501 2636 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
502 2637 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
503 2638 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
504 2639 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
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509 2644 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
510 2645 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8

5.15 CHELTENHAM GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (£11,899.2m) (20)

- 601 2646 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
602 2647 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
603 2648 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
604 2649 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
605 2650 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
606 2651 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
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609 2654 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
610 2655 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8

SEDGEFIELD

Going: good

2.30 (2m) 2.15, 2.50, 3.30(BBC2) 4.5

2.30 YARM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£755.2m) (21 runners)

- 1 14230 KARENA PLASTICS (G) (C. Manning) T. Cunningham
2 10214F SHERIDAN (G) (M. J. H. Jones) M. J. T.
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609 2654 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
610 2655 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8

Southwell

Going: good

2.15 (2m) 2.15, 2.50, 3.30(BBC2) 4.5

2.15 WATERFORD CRYSTAL SUPREME NOVICE HURDLE (Grade 1: £22,200.2m) (30)

- 105 2612 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8
106 2610 GLASSBOROUGH (G) (Manning) A Gargery (nr)
107 2611 CHAMBERLAIN (G) (J. J. Jones) J. H. Stone 6-11-8
108 2613 CLEARLY BUST (G) (C. Longman) M. J. T. 6-11-8
109 2614 COTTAGE ROYAL (G) (W. J. H. Jones) M. J. T. 6-11-8
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COURSE SPECIALISTS CHELTENHAM

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606 2651 ANCHOR (G) (Sultan Adams) J. Frazer 6-11-8



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## LAWYER

A Lawyer is required to join the Management Team, based in the Isle of Man, which administers a group of highly successful companies including a well known merchant bank and an international property company. The position will involve assisting in the management of a very substantial property portfolio, supervising outside lawyers in the acquisition and disposal of elements in the portfolio, advising the merchant bank and acting as general legal counsel to the group and its founder and majority shareholder.

Applicants should apply in writing enclosing a full CV to the address below. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.  
A. E. THOMAS BSc ACA  
GROUP FINANCE DIRECTOR  
MONTROSE HOLDINGS LIMITED  
CELTIC HOUSE, VICTORIA STREET,  
DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.





